

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Oil Leak Makes a Mess For Dan's Gas, Neighbors Too

By Denise Minor

One morning last March, Roberta McGowan's two young girls looked out their window at 308 Vicksburg St. and started jumping up and down with excitement.

"It looked to them like someone was setting up a swing set on the sidewalk in front of our house," said McGowan.

What appeared to be playground equipment to the children was actually the A-frame for a drill to test ground water for contamination. The test was being conducted, she later found out, because the gas station bordering her property had discovered that its underground waste oil storage tank was leaking.

That discovery, said McGowan, was the beginning of a six-month nightmare. "We have a 75-foot redwood tree in the back yard that leans to one side and has brown leaves," she said.

"There has been a positive sample of contaminated soil taken at the base of the tree. My kids used to play under that tree all the time. Their feet walked on that ground," McGowan continued.

Now the back yard is off limits to the girls. But McGowan and her husband, Maurice McGowan, are still afraid of the health risks posed by living next to an oil spill. "It's been six months, and we still haven't received any report letting us know how big this thing is."

Wayne Rosemont, proprietor of Dan's Gas and Auto Service at 3865 24th St.,

Continued on Page 5



Dan's Gas owner Wayne Rosemont may be smiling in this picture, but it's definitely not a fun time to be in the service station business. He and his landlord, John McCarthy, have had to shell out nearly \$100,000 to arrange for clean-up of an underground oil leak. And if the neighbors' yards are contaminated, the toll will go much higher. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Supervisor Achtenberg Talks Taxes, Libraries, Giants, Jordan And Clinton

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

When Roberta Achtenberg was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in November 1990, many Noe Valley residents felt like they "got their own, personal voice on the Board," in the words of Achtenberg aide Alex Clemens.

A resident of the neighborhood since 1972, Achtenberg has indeed been a vocal proponent of many neighborhood issues, including saving the Noe Valley Senior Center's lunch program and the branch library on Jersey Street. As a supervisor, she has helped obtain health benefits for domestic partners, and has been instrumental in pursuing a water reclamation policy, clarifying the city's wrongful eviction laws, and ensuring better sidewalk accessibility for people using wheelchairs.

This year, she jumped into the national political fray as the northern California co-chair of Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. In July, as a co-drafter of the Democratic Party platform, she drew nationwide attention when she became the first openly lesbian to address a major party convention.

The Voice recently sat down with Achtenberg in her City Hall office to discuss San Francisco politics and her involvement

Continued on Page 7

24th Street a Good Host For Ghosts on Halloween

By Casey D'Anca Salm and Grace D'Anca

Last year the Voice received numerous reports that Downtown Noe Valley was haunted on Halloween, so this year the paper asked a fearless mother-daughter team—that's us—to investigate the delights and frights that 24th Street merchants had in store for neighborhood residents on Saturday, Oct. 31.

We discovered that most shopkeepers were lit up like jack-o'-lanterns, in anticipation of giving candy and treats to the young—and young at heart—who'll be prowling and howling that night.

They told us that the 24th Street festivities would get under way late morning, with a preview of preschool pumpkins, and would continue until 7 or 8 in the evening, when most of the shops give up the ghost.

Small Frys, the children's clothing store at 4066 24th St., will reprise the pumpkin-carving contest it launched last year. "We invite neighborhood kids to bring in their carved or decorated pumpkins, so we can display them in our front window and award prizes," said store owner Carol Yenne.

Yenne asks Noe Valley's little pumpkin

designers to bring their creations to the store on Oct. 29 and not before, "because we don't want them to get mushy." She added that neighborhood judges would pick the winners starting at 11 a.m. on Halloween day.

For the past 23 years, Shufat Market, at 24th and Church, has been passing out treats, and that's no easy trick.

"We just started doing it with the other merchants back then. Tootsie Rolls are the kids' favorite," said Shufat owner James Omar, handing one to our cub reporter.

Eric Flaherty, tending store at Phoenix Books and Records at 3850 24th St., said he wasn't on board last year, but that he was sure Phoenix would do something enticing this All Hallows Eve.

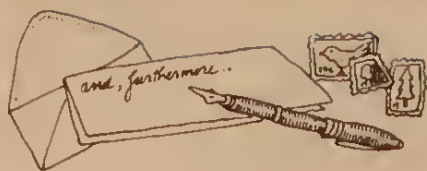
"Knowing the group we have working here, they'll probably be decking out Halloween night and quite likely giving candy," Flaherty said with a mischievous grin.

Over at Double Rainbow, 3933 24th St., employee Alysia Gonzales said the ice cream shop's colorful cadre of workers was prepared to dish out special treats to costumed customers. She then treated

Continued on Page 5



Small Frys owner Carol Yenne almost went batty when she met up with Casey D'Anca Salm, disguised as a mild-mannered Voice reporter. But after making a small flap, she revealed that the store would hold a pumpkin-carving contest for kids this Halloween. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.



Tired of the 'Vigilante' Voice

Editor:

For some years I have enjoyed reading the *Noe Valley Voice*. Those days, alas, are over, now that the paper appears to have turned into a self-promoting vehicle for Police Officer Lois Perillo.

In her column in your July/August issue, Ms. Perillo lowers the standards of your paper by continuing to gloat over what she obviously believes to be her greatest coup—the persecution and hounding of Gary Kappes, 24th Street's erstwhile gentle panhandler.

As an attorney, I happened to be in the Bryant Street courtroom several months ago and witnessed Ms. Perillo's attempts to orchestrate what can best be described as a lynch mob of "indignant" Noe Valley residents. Ms. Perillo's actions were a disgrace to her badge and an insult to the court, which she shamelessly attempted to manipulate.

Now that that "vicious criminal" Gary has been exiled from Happy Valley and a Golden Age has been issued in, we learn from Ms. Perillo herself that her actions may not have been so selfless after all. For has she not, she proudly tells us, applied to and been accepted for a spot on the San Francisco Drug Abuse Advisory Board. Nice career move, Lois, even though some grizzled cynics like myself may feel that you know as much about drugs, their abuse, and the rehabilitative methods needed, as a cow knows about having a holiday.

But it gets worse. Several issues ago, Lois modestly told us about her heroism when she held off the hordes of anarchy after the Rodney King verdict and helped arrest hundreds of innocent people—who are now suing the city and going to cost us taxpayers a pretty penny because of Hongisto's ham-handed actions. And again, Perillo chooses to tell us that as a result of a complaint from one of her anonymous informants, Gary Kappes now faces revocation of his probation. Hasn't this officer ever heard of due process? Innocent until proven guilty?

Apparently not—and nor, it seems, has your paper. Also in the July issue, you have a page-one feature that reports a totally one-sided police story regarding the capture of an alleged would-be shoplifter. Compounding your error you also give the name of the alleged perpetrator, and inform us that he has a "long rap sheet." How can this guy get a fair trial when he has already been convicted in your paper?

LETTERS 29¢

Like many others, I believe that your paper should return to its rightful role as a community newspaper—not the "Vigilante News" or the election campaign sheet of wannabe politicians such as Lois Perillo.

John McGuffin
Law Offices of John McGuffin &
Frank D'Alfonsi
West Portal Avenue



A Little Fuzzy on the Point of Piercing

Editor:

Regarding your piece on body piercing in your September edition: I have no objection to this type of "self-expression," but how does Carrie Field's piercing of her nose, chin, and cheek draw attention to people suffering in the world, as she states? Sounds like some pretty foggy thinking to me. Am I missing something?

Judith Malina
Texas Street

J-Church Extension Still Getting the Runaround

Editor:

As both a resident of Noe Valley and a transit planner for Muni, I feel I must respond to the letter in your September issue from Landis Whistler, the director of the Stonestown Tenants Association.

Mr. Whistler alleges that Muni could start "loop service" tomorrow, through-routing J and M cars so that Noe Valley residents could access Stonestown Mall and San Francisco State University directly. That is correct, except for the little matter of a half a million dollars in additional yearly operating costs that today's tight budget does not provide.

Because the M-line is run as a two-car train all day, while the J's are single cars (M ridership is roughly twice the J ridership), the only way that M's and J's can be efficiently and economically through-routed is with the construction of turn-back tracks, to be used for every second M-car, in the 19th Avenue median strip near S.F.S.U. and Stonestown.

In an effort to perform Muni's service planning task, residents of the Stonestown/Lakeside area have suggested a number of alternative operating scenarios, all

of which are impractical, either because of the excess vehicle-hours or vehicle-miles they would require Muni to run, or because of scheduling problems (i.e., no operator rest breaks, no opportunities to recover from traffic delays).

Mr. Whistler complains about the lack of an environmental impact report on Muni's 19th Avenue project. In fact, state and federal laws define very clearly the categories of projects that require such reports, and improvements within existing transportation rights-of-way (such as 19th Avenue) are specifically exempted.

He also complains of "constant changes in information supplied" by Muni. In fact, what he characterizes as "changes" has simply been new information supplied in response to each new objection that his neighbors have raised to the proposed project.

These objections, though they take many forms, are all raised in order to prevent Muni from achieving its goal of greater operating efficiency by constructing the 19th Avenue layover tracks.

Mr. Whistler and certain of his neighbors fear two things: the inconvenience that 10 months of construction would cause them, and the supposed decrease in their property values that trains laying over between runs (as they do at 30th and Church) would precipitate. All of their concerns about safety are related to the enormous volume of traffic that clogs 19th Avenue—traffic that Muni is simply trying to play a role in reducing.

Jim Nelson
Whitney Street



Prop. H Would Put a Stop To Arbitrarily Inflated Rents

Editor:

As a senior and longtime Noe Valley resident, I urge everyone who cares about the future of our community to vote yes on Proposition H this November.

Proposition H is a simple measure that would delete just four words from the current city rent law. These four words—"not less than 4%"—guarantee landlords 4 percent rent increases, regardless of decreases in the inflation rate. Although the recession has deepened, tenants are still required to pay annual rent increases

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well beyond increases in landlord expenses.

As a senior, I have seen the interest on my savings account cut to 2 percent. I also see 90 percent of my Social Security cost-of-living adjustments going directly to pay for my 4 percent annual rent increase. Our incomes are losing ground every year, and we need the immediate relief.

I have always loved Noe Valley for its diversity. Unless Proposition H passes, however, our elderly residents and young families will be unable to continue to afford to live here. Homeowners and landlords with adjustable rate mortgages have seen a decline in their housing costs due to the recession; tenants also deserve to pay less when times are tough.

Proposition H will maintain our neighborhood's diversity and help people like me continue to live here. I urge our community to vote yes on Proposition H.

Miriam Blaustein
Army Street



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Local Cops Go Easy on Jaywalking, But Advise Caution

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Faced with a substantial increase in pedestrian accidents, particularly in the downtown Financial District, the San Francisco Police Department in August stepped up enforcement of jaywalking laws and began issuing \$55 tickets to violators.

Pedestrians in Noe Valley, however, seemed unphased by the situation. Around noon on Sept. 8, the *Voice* spotted jaywalker after jaywalker weaving through cars on the busy stretch of 24th Street between Castro and Church.

"I really don't have time to talk to you now," was a typical response among the several jaywalkers the *Voice* caught in the act.

"I know jaywalking is against the law," a shop owner told us, "but I'm still going to do it. On a street like 24th Street, you have to jaywalk to get around. And the cars move slowly around here."

Fortunately for the pedestrians, 24th Street beat cops Lois Perillo and Lorraine Lombardo have decided against citing neighborhood jaywalkers, for now.

"It's just not a priority as far as we're concerned," said Perillo. "There are a lot more pressing issues in the neighborhood."

Perillo also pointed out that no serious pedestrian accidents had occurred in Noe Valley in the 2½ years since she started her 24th Street patrols.

Lombardo echoed Perillo's sentiments, but noted, "If the community does want us to enforce the law, then we can certainly bring this up for discussion. We're happy to work with the community in any way we can. But we'd have to give people a fair amount of warning before



Twenty-fourth Street Beat Officer Lorraine Lombardo believes that the police would have a hard time enforcing the city's jaywalking law in Noe Valley, unless there were a crosswalk in front of Bell Market. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

enforcement began."

Lombardo added that one of the most popular jaywalking spots in the neighborhood was in front of Bell Market, on 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe.

"It's too long of a block for people to walk to get to the end and legally cross to the other side of the street," she said. "I think it would be unreasonable to enforce the jaywalking rule without a crosswalk at Bell Market. Handicapped people and the elderly simply cannot make it all the way to the end of the block, where they can legally cross the street."

However, Lombardo cautioned, "I have been frightened a few times because I've seen jaywalkers almost get clipped by cars. And I know that one day someone

is going to get it. Most drivers in Noe Valley, though, seem to be aware that there are a lot of jaywalkers, and so they have a tendency to look out for them and drive a little slower.

"What really frightens me, though, is when I see parents jaywalking with their children," she continued. "I don't cite them, but I do give them a lecture."

"I don't think it's right to be teaching

a 3- or 4-year-old child to jaywalk. I hate to stop and bother people, but I worry about this. I don't like them teaching this habit to children who can't make their own choices yet.

"If as an adult you're willing to take the risk, that's fine. It's your decision to make. You may get hurt, but it's your choice. But don't teach it to your children." □



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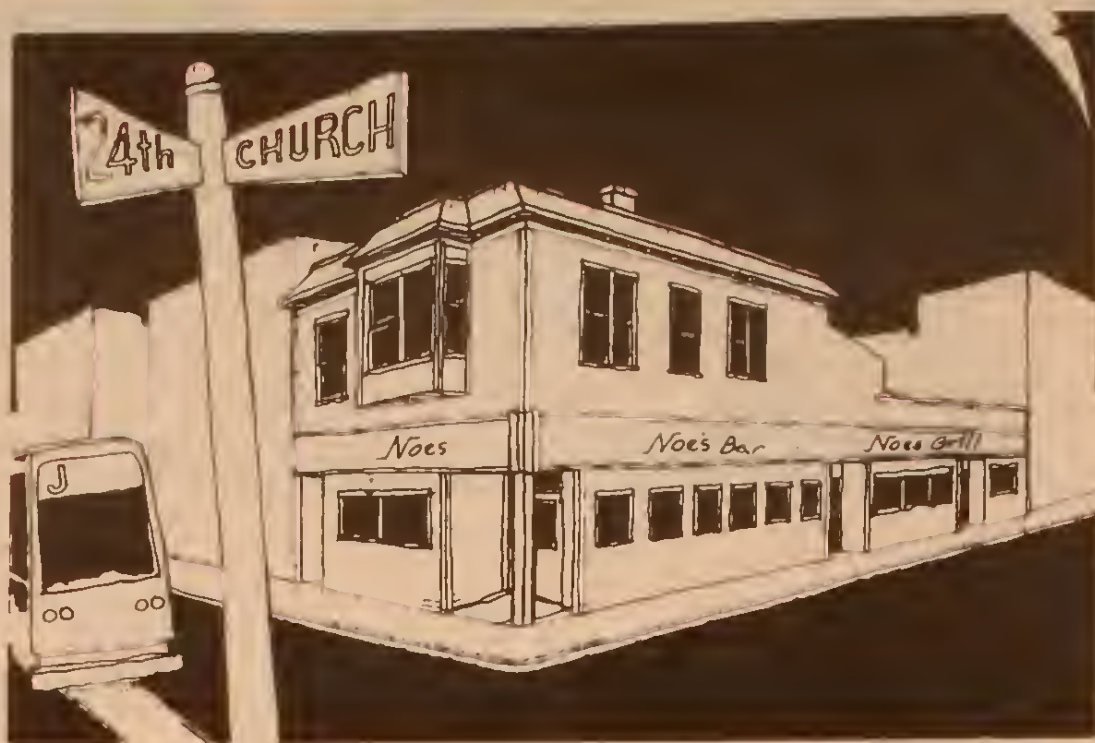
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Deep Fried Prawns	\$11.50
Fish & Chips (does not include vegetables)	\$7.75
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Steamed Clams	\$9.95
Steamed Mussels & Clams	\$9.75

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Cleanup Could Take 5 to 10 Years

Continued from Page 1

said he discovered the leak in 1991 when another neighbor noticed oil seeping out of the ground behind the station. Rosemont and property owner John McCarthy hired Gen-Tech Environmental of San Jose to investigate.

"Apparently, the filler pipe running from the back of the station to the waste oil tank rotted away and was leaking," Rosemont said. Gen-Tech removed the tank and pipes in March of 1991, piled all the dirt from the 20-foot-deep hole next to where the tank was, and began treating the soil.

Gen-Tech President Stuart Solomon said the earth from around the tank was mixed this summer with a biological microorganism that speeds degeneration of hydrocarbons.

"It's basically a hybrid that eats petrohydrocarbons and converts them into non-toxic waste. It can be applied to soil or ground water or both to eliminate toxicity," Solomon explained.

If the pollution does indeed extend to the McGowans' property, or to any other neighbor's property (Gen-Tech engineers have determined that the original underground oil spill was flowing in a southeasterly direction), Rosemont and McCarthy are afraid that they will not have the money to pay for the cleanup.

"I have personally already put \$30,000 into paying for this, and the landlord [McCarthy] has put in \$68,000," said Rosemont.

"When I got this station seven years ago, I was told that all the tanks were fine. Well, obviously they weren't."

McCarthy believes that the real responsibility for the oil spill lies with Shell Oil Company, which leased the property from 1960 to 1980. "Since Shell left, we've measured all the oil that's gone down into that tank and all that's come out, and we never came up short. So we think the leak happened years ago," said McCarthy.

"I suspect Shell knew about it too, and that's why they didn't want to renew their lease."

McCarthy hired attorney Greg Garrison to take Shell Oil to court on the matter, but Garrison refused to comment on the case last month since it was still pending.

Wendy Ho Iwata, spokesperson for the city's Bureau of Toxics, Health, and Safety Services, said further investigation of the soil could make or break McCarthy's case against Shell Oil.

"We can, in effect, fingerprint the contamination to tell if it matches the type of oil used by Shell at the site versus the type used by the station there now," she said.

Iwata's bureau oversees the cleanup of 500 documented cases of ground contamination in San Francisco. So far, she said, she has not been satisfied with Gen-Tech's progress at Dan's Gas.

"We've given them a list of the 10 things that they need to do to comply with state law, including hiring a tree specialist to analyze the redwood in the McGowans' yard, backfill the excavated soil at the station, and submit monitoring reports," she said. "They have not responded, nor have they asked for an extension."

City geologist Cherie D'Andrea, who has been handling the 24th Street case, also was critical. "The only report I have on file from them [the gas station] is dated Feb. 10, 1992," she said. "They're not doing things in a timely manner."

D'Andrea was surprised to learn that

Rosemont and McCarthy had spent over \$90,000. "That's a lot of money for what they've accomplished."

She questioned the fact that Gen-Tech had only put in two underground water-monitoring wells. "They've done a lot of boring. But as long as they had the drilling equipment out and ready to go, they could have converted those bores into wells."

Solomon explained that the boring Gen-Tech did in the McGowans' yard was done by hand to test the soil, and that the equipment used to dig a well was too cumbersome to get into the yard.

The McGowan property begins after a 5-foot drop-off behind the station, so the fence will have to be removed and a plank installed to wheel down a specialty drilling rig, he said.

Solomon also said that he had just recently replied to the city's 10-point letter with a FAX answering all its questions. The official document was to be mailed soon.

He also believes that many people involved in the process have unrealistic expectations about how fast a cleanup of this nature can be completed.

"It is not something you can wave a wand and have done with," said Solomon. "It will probably take several years. To treat the ground water with our Pump-and-Treat system will probably take a minimum of five years, and it could take as many as 10."

As for contamination in the McGowans' yard, Solomon said he had seen no proof that it existed at dangerous levels. "The reason we have shown no urgency in reacting to the McGowans' concerns is that the amount of hydrocarbons in their back yard is not of a toxic amount," he said.

"We sent a tree expert out to inspect their redwood, and he said that it had not been affected in any way by the leak, and that it was leaning due to natural causes," Solomon added.

The contamination found in the McGowans' soil was at a depth of 5 feet, he said, which is too close to the surface to be caused by the underground tank.

"The oil in their yard was probably caused by rain washing oil from the station down to their property," said Solomon. "And what we did find was 350 parts per million. Below 1,000 parts per million is considered permissible."

McGowan disputes that any level of pollution from the station is permissible. "If it were merely dog-doo they dropped in our yard, I would expect them to come clean it up," she said.

Not only is she concerned about her family's health, she said, but she and her husband are currently trying to refinance their house, and now they're afraid that won't be possible. "The only thing we have in the world is this Noe Valley Victorian. It's a fixer-upper. The land it sits on is everything, but now it might not be worth anything."

Nevertheless, McGowan is sympathetic to Rosemont and McCarthy's situation. "Poor Wayne, he's screwed," she said. "He's sweating out his future. This is a problem he has to face, but it dates back to the days of old."

Rosemont and McGowan met for the first time at a Sept. 4 meeting called by the city for all parties involved. McGowan said the meeting was somewhat confrontational, but that she left with some of the answers she had been waiting six months for.

"Since that meeting, it looks like things are finally starting to buzz." □



Elisa Ining, owner of the 1st Ining Lounge, is perfecting her witch's cackle for this year's Halloween festivities on 24th Street. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

Don't Be Scared to Trick-or-Treat

Continued from Page 1

us to a pre-Halloween glimpse of part of her costume: a pierced navel.

The personnel at Bakers of Paris,* on 24th near Noe, will chip in to buy candy for kids. "It's been a tradition for the employees to do this for the last few years," said counterperson Molly Manewal.

Bell Market, across the street, will feature checkers in costume and goodies for trick-or-treaters. And the nearby Real Food Company will offer treats made with alternative sweeteners, for those who are overly health- and/or tooth-conscious.

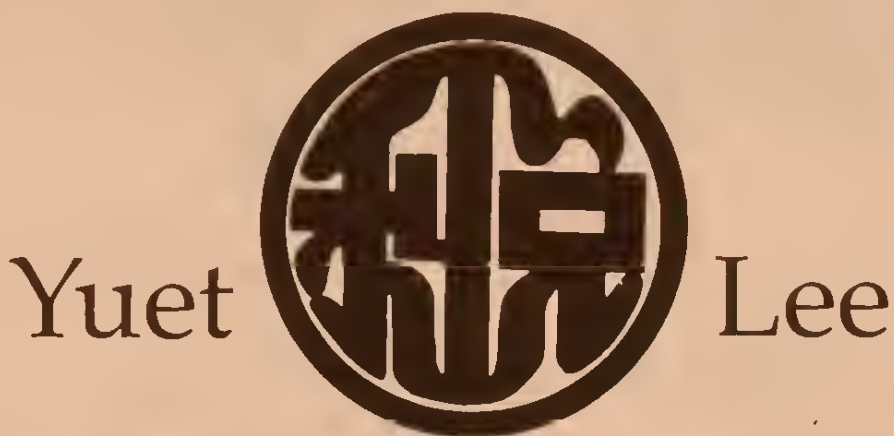
Don't miss the Courtyard Cafe at 3913 24th St. Owner Davood Mozafari guarantees that "we will be here as we have been for the past 10 years with treats for our future customers." Mozafari then filled us in on Char-Shambu Suri, a holi-

day celebrated in his native Iran that bears a strong similarity to Halloween.

(The Char-Shambu Suri holiday takes place on the Wednesday before the Iranian New Year, and begins with the building of small bonfires that people leap over. Mozafari said. Then all the young boys and girls go out trick-or-treating—the boys dressed as girls. At sundown, you make a wish and stand on the street corner listening for the first word in the conversation of a passerby. That word indicates whether the wish will come true, Mozafari explained.)

Before you make a wish this Halloween, stop by the First Ining Lounge at 4026 24th St.

Every year owner Elisa Ining dresses up in outrageous costume and passes out candy in front of her establishment, laughing all the while. She doesn't know what she'll be wearing yet, but she's got the laugh down pat. □



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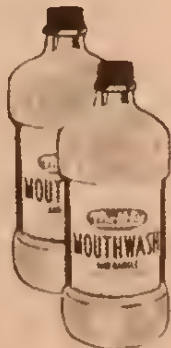


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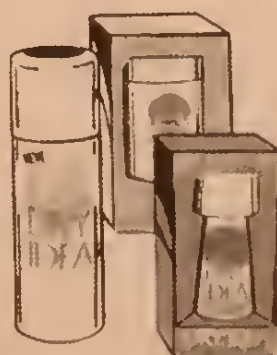


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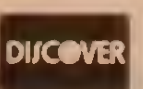


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Supervisor Still Looking For Leadership From Mayor's Office

Continued from Page 1

in the Clinton campaign.

Voice: There are so many important issues facing San Francisco. In your opinion, what are the biggest priorities?

Achtenberg: Management is the biggest issue that faces the city right now. Our fiscal problems are so severe, and San Francisco citizens have very high expectations when it comes to what the city needs to deliver. We have to figure out a way to somehow deliver the high quality of service citizens expect.

The truth is, though, we're faced with a dwindling tax base—and there are many causes for that, stemming all the way back to Prop. 13 and the fallacies surrounding the allotment of government responsibility.

Local governments have a tremendous amount of responsibility, but they're at the mercy of the state when it comes to amassing the resources necessary to pay for the things they're mandated to do. So we have this inherent contradiction, which, quite frankly, is only now coming home to roost—whether it's in the deterioration of our schools or in the eroding of government's infrastructure. And we're seeing all of those things happen all at once.

At the same time, we're experiencing this incredibly deep recession. And government is failing, in that people feel alienated and skeptical about whether it can achieve its mandate.

Voice: So do you believe there is a way out of the turmoil?

Achtenberg: Well, some people have suggested that cities as political entities are obsolete, but I'm not at the point yet. We perform a very important function as a local government. We're closest to the people—with everything that's good about that and everything that's bad about that.

We can't afford to not have both local government and state government. What we have to do is figure out how to pay for government in some way that makes sense. Now, part of the problem is that the federal government has bailed out on helping to finance the operation of the state, and correspondingly the state has bailed out on its obligation to help finance the delivery of services at the local level. I think we need to see a realignment of those priorities.

Additionally, I believe—and this is not a popular thing to say—that people are going to have to come to grips with the



San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg made history this summer when she became the first out-of-the-lesbian to address the Democratic Party Convention. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

fact that once we've extracted every efficiency we can extract, if they want the services, they're going to have to pay for them.

I'm not saying we should tax ourselves into oblivion. There's nothing wrong with wanting to be better managers and make things more efficient and all of that—and I think we've only scratched the surface regarding the ways in which we can reorganize and make government more efficient.

But in the end, we don't produce widgets. That's just not what we do. When you have an unprofitable subsidiary in business, you cut it off. You close it. Here, when the economy declines, more people, not less people, come to the Department of Social Services, so we're always in the position of having to spend more when we have less. And we can't close the unprofitable subsidiary.

Government cannot be run like a business because the two are fundamentally different—which is not to say we shouldn't be efficient and streamline policies and financial management mechanisms. Still, at some point, these things are not going to help us bridge the gap between our income and our demand.

What we're going to have to do is figure out how to be as cost-conscious as we can, and then we have to figure out how to persuade people that beyond that point, we have to pay for what we need.

Voice: What is your view of Mayor Jordan's administration? Do you have confidence in Jordan and his team to get the job done?

Achtenberg: We've always wished Mayor Jordan well. We know that it takes any administration a certain amount of time to figure out how to do the job. I'd say it's taken this administration a good bit longer than many would have predicted. Whether or not they'll ever get the job done, I don't really know.

In the beginning, we had a much more

charitable attitude than we do now. I wish I was confident that the kind of planning which needs to be going on there is indeed going on and that they're not just moving from crisis to crisis, but quite frankly I can't really point to anything that tells me that's the case.

The budget that the mayor sent to the Board of Supervisors was pathetic, basically. They asserted that it was lean and trim and blah, blah, blah. It turned out that there were holes everywhere, and basically they turned it over to us to do what needed to be done to shore the whole thing up.

This government was not designed to be led by the Board of Supervisors. We're 11 people. This is thought of as a part-time job. The way our powers are allocated, the mayor produces the budget, the mayor initiates all funding requests, and we pass on those things.

We can cut things from the budget, but we can't add anything to it, etc., etc. We're designed to be a reactive body, a body that is there to curb the excesses of the mayor's office—and one that contemplates leadership in the mayor's office—but so far that hasn't happened.

Voice: Now that California has a budget, what sort of cuts are in store for San Francisco?

Achtenberg: We have a \$64 million gap [prior to the mayor's discovery of certain budgetary windfalls in mid-September] that needs to be filled. The mayor is proposing budget cuts, and the rumor is that the cuts will be primarily in the Department of Public Health and Muni service.

My own view of this is that we should cut those two entities last, since those two entities took the lion's share of cuts in the first round.

I also think that we have to look at additional revenues, which the mayor has said we're not going to do. Again, I'm not saying that I'm overly enthusiastic

about tax increases in such a severe recession. However, we must proceed on this rapidly. The longer we take, the shorter amount of time there is to extract savings. Now, we only have 10 months to make up the \$64 million. If we only have 9½ months, all that means is that the cuts have to be more dramatic to make up the same \$64 million in a shorter period of time.

I'm hoping that in this budget go-round, the mayor will actually decide on some priorities. By that I mean that he recognizes that he's making policy by virtue of what he cuts and what he keeps intact.

My own view is that there are certain things that should be priorities. I think libraries are one. Public health is another. Even if we could restore money that we take from public health this year in next year's budget, there would still be irreparable harm done to numerous people this year. So, I think you have to take that into account when you decide to cut public health first.

For libraries, it's the same kind of thing. Now, I'm not saying that we shouldn't do street paving. I think we should do street paving, but if we lengthen the amount of time we wait to pave a particular street as a way of paying for something in the interim, then I might actually be for that—not because I don't think street paving is important, but because I know that if we wait an extra 10 months to pave or repave a street—while it would be a modest inconvenience—nobody is going to become infected with HIV as a result, no child is going to go to school and be exposed to tuberculosis because he or she was not inoculated, and so on.

Voice: Are you or the board involved in helping out the city's public schools in any way?

Achtenberg: We don't govern the public schools, but I've been trying to make the relationship between the Board of Supervisors and the school board as cooperative as we can make it. We've helped out, for example, in terms of providing a lot of services that help subsidize the San Francisco Unified School District. We provide buses and recreation leaders and all kinds of things that other cities don't provide their school districts. Even though the school board is a separate entity, we think our missions are so inter-related that we can't afford to allow the schools to deteriorate. These children are San Francisco citizens too.

Last year we took a stand when the governor wanted to suspend Prop. 98. In fact, San Francisco was the only county that stood up and said no, we won't allow welfare and the schools to be pitted against each other, which is basically what they're succeeding in doing this year. Last year we led the fight to say no and it stuck for a year at least.

We also have the sports tax that we instituted on professional football and baseball teams, which we use to fund the sports programs for the schools.

Continued on Page 9

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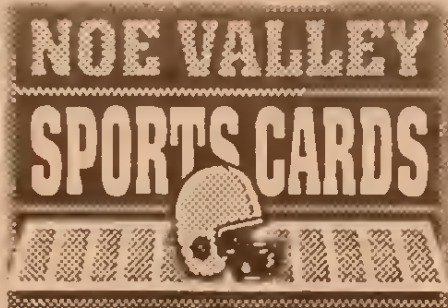
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Achtenberg Has High Hopes For Clinton/ Gore Ticket

Continued from Page 7

Voice: Speaking of sports teams, what's your view on the city's efforts to keep the Giants. Should this be a priority?

Achtenberg: I think it's a priority. I think they're an important industry. Primarily, they're a money maker. I'm not talking about the profit the individual team members make, but from San Francisco's point of view, they're a major tenant at Candlestick Park. They have 1,000 people on their payroll. They pay a sports tax. They're relatively non-polluting. The Giants is a decent industry that we should try to keep in San Francisco within reason. We shouldn't pay any price to keep them here, but if we have to pay some price to keep them here it may be worth it.

Cities across the country are doing all kinds of things like giving their teams tax breaks and suspending planning rules that we San Franciscans would never consider doing—and I'm not suggesting San Francisco consider it. But I do think that when we have an important, productive, non-polluting industry, we should take steps to try and keep them.

The Giants have always been a good citizen, and they have the collateral benefit of being a self-esteem builder for the city. This is a world-class town with a major league ball club. I'm not saying it's worth tens of millions of city dollars to maintain that as our identity, but it has financial and psychological benefits. Given that that's the case, I think we should take reasonable steps to keep them here.

Voice: Are there any issues specific to Noe Valley that you're involved in? And given the budget crises and other problems facing the city, do you have any suggestions as to how Noe Valley residents might help out?

Achtenberg: Well, you have the new Noe Valley Democratic Club, which had a very good turnout when I spoke in August. That was very heartening to me.

In addition, Noe Valley has the highest voter turnout. The highest percentage of registered voters go out and vote of any neighborhood in San Francisco. We are also probably the most liberal in our voting patterns, which I think is important for any candidate to take notice of.

And while we're concerned about Noe Valley issues—like keeping the senior lunch program and our library preserved and protected, and making sure that police protection on 24th Street is adequate and that our businesspeople are getting the kinds of services they're entitled to—I think the typical Noe Valley citizen has a very broad view of the needs of San Francisco and can always be counted on to recognize that even though we're not flooded with homeless people in our neighborhood, for example, we don't forget that we have an obligation to homeless people.

That's how I like to think of who we are as neighborhood citizens—that we



Studying, as opposed to shuffling, the paperwork is one of the more daunting tasks for a city supervisor these days. So Roberta Achtenberg relies on help from legislative aide Alex Clemens (center), student intern Cory Black (left), and volunteer Ann McCoy. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

are global thinkers as well as local doers. I try to be involved when called upon.

I think the libraries are very important. They're important to kids, they're important to elders, to people out of work trying to figure out how to make their way. They just provide an important public service. I've been a big advocate of the libraries this year and held a whole series of hearings on the big cutback the mayor asked the library to take. And we were able to get the mayor to restore some money and then the Board of Supervisors, through political finagling, restored another \$250,000 for the libraries.

"People are going to have to come to grips with the fact that once we've extracted every efficiency we can extract, if they want the services, they're going to have to pay for them."

So we ended up minimizing their cut and also creating a situation where they could use their Prop. J money, which is the Children's Fund money, to do Sunday afternoon reading sessions and outreach to children. For instance, they're going to send out a whole set of hookmobiles, primarily to the outlying areas of the city and to housing projects to engender some enthusiasm about reading.

It's a crazy thing to cut the libraries, you know. The mayor had us take a 10 percent cut across the board for every department, which I think is a crazy way to make public policy. We have libraries in every community in this city, and they are some of the best investments you can make. Plus, the physical structures are already there, paid for a long time ago and filled with books. If anything, we should be investing more money in li-

braries. They're ready-made places for children to go safely after school. They instill the right kinds of values and right kinds of skills.

Voice: You signed on very early as a supporter of Bill Clinton's presidential bid? What do you think his chances are at this point?

Achtenberg: It looks pretty hopeful right now, but you can't take anything for granted. I don't want to be smug or complacent about it because we have a lot of work to do. Not one vote has been cast yet, but he looks good today. It obviously didn't look anywhere near as hopeful when I first agreed to support Bill Clinton, but he was my choice from the start. I think he's a very intelligent, compassionate, and practical person. On a personal level, I like him very much. I think he's very open-minded and pragmatic. I think he would be an excellent president, and I hope it happens.

Voice: Do you think the issue of Clinton's avoiding the draft is going to have any impact?

Achtenberg: I think the Bush campaign is trying for any distraction. They tried with the "women should respect their essential natures" thing, and that didn't go over too well. And they tried "bury the gays," which I think had as much downside as it did upside and made them look pretty ugly.

Now, I think they're going to go back to "Bill didn't fight in a war and maybe he had sex outside his marriage." Who knows what's next. It's an effort, I think, for Bush to not have to talk about his record.

Does the draft thing hurt Bill? Sure, with the group of folks who basically can't conceive of a commander in chief who was never a soldier. But I would say that's probably the same group who could never see a woman president. And then there is the nostalgia factor of wanting our president to have served. Clearly,

Clinton is not going to get these people's vote.

But for all of the rest of us who think there are other things that are at least of equal importance if not greater significance, we should listen to what Clinton has to say.

Now, in my opinion, some of the statements he's made recently have had some of that lawyerly nitpicking quality about them that I don't think people appreciate. I have encouraged the campaign to be as forthright as they can be.

Obviously, he did what he could to get out of the draft. He was a young, talented, idealistic guy who disagreed with the war and wanted to go to Oxford. I have to tell you, I'm exactly Bill Clinton's age, and everybody I know who was in that situation tried to do that. If they were lucky, they succeeded. And if they were less lucky, they went to Vietnam. That's the way it was—and anybody who pretends it was different is just lying.

But I think Clinton needs to be forthright about it and not make these half statements. I think those kinds of statements are what will end up hurting him. Technically, they're true, but it ends up looking like he thinks he has something to hide, and I don't think he has anything to hide.

Voice: What was your reaction to Pat Buchanan's mention of you in his speech at the Republican National Convention?

Achtenberg: I believe he called me a homosexual extremist who the Democrats allowed to speak from the platform. Part of me was thrilled to have rated grouping with Hillary and Bill. And part of me was scared.

I don't care what anybody says. We can laugh about Pat Buchanan all we want. He's a right-wing lunatic, and he represents the lunatic fringe. But there's a lot of violence in this society that talk like Buchanan's gives permission to. His

Continued on Page 10

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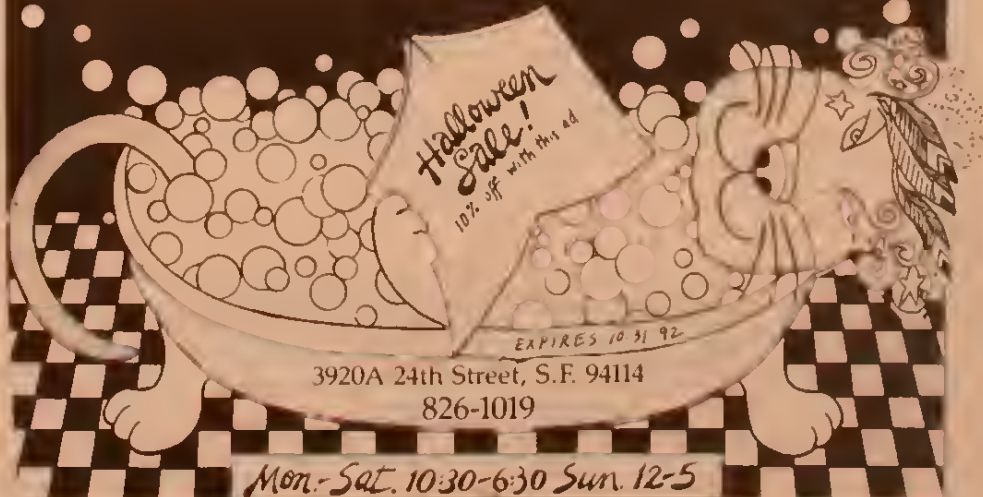
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Supervisor Achtenberg

Continued from Page 9

speech made me scared, for myself and my family.

I'm a public figure. I'm a lightning rod for these kinds of things. I know that. Harry Britt, Carole Migden, and I all know who proceeded us: Harvey Milk.

So when I'm filled with bluster, I say, 'Oh, great. I was trashed by Pat Buchanan. That makes me feel like I must be doing something right.'

But it would be a lie to say that I wasn't struck with a little bit of fear because I know how powerful hate can be, and I know how statements like his give permission to people who are unbalanced to somehow think they can treat people like objects. And I don't want to see that happen to any person, woman or man, gay or straight.

Voice: Do you have political aspirations beyond the Board of Supervisors? State or national office, maybe?

Achtenberg: Well, I'm interested in public service. I like what I do. I'm trying to do it well, and I think the more experience I have, the better at it I am. It would be disingenuous to say that if Bill Clinton said to me we need you, that I would not consider what he had to say. But I'm not considering that particularly likely. I try

to be realistic about where I fit into the scheme of things.

We have term limits on the Board of Supervisors. If the question is, would I consider other office at the conclusion of my tenure here, the answer is yes, I would consider it.

I like doing this work, but I know how to do a lot of other kinds of work, too, so I don't feel like electoral office or politics is the only thing I know how to do. I would like to stay involved, but it's not my life. □

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SHORT TAKES

undertaker, for he will be the last to let you down. □

Latino Health Fair

"The Latino HIV/AIDS & Health Fair" will take place at Dolores Park on Saturday, Oct. 24, from noon to 5 p.m.

Approximately 25 tables and booths will be set up to disseminate information on AIDS education and prevention, and community artists will offer live music and performances, in addition to games and other activities.

A special volunteers meeting has been scheduled for Friday, Oct. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the American Red Cross Mission Service Center, 810 Valencia St., at 19th (phone: 206-7937). Also, general planning meetings are being held on Mondays, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the Center for Positive Care, 3180 18th St. (phone: 621-1361 or 648-3702).

The fair is sponsored by several grassroots organizations, including Aguilas, Curas, Llego, the Mission Neighborhood Health Center, the American Red Cross Mission Service Center, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the U.C.S.F. AIDS Health Project/Multicultural Unit.

If you would like to give a donation, mail it to Latino Health Fair, c/o Aguilas, P.O. Box 40771, S.F., CA 94140. □

Schools Whitewashed

The weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3 and 4, is slated to be one of the biggest "paint-ins" in San Francisco history, when the interiors of over 100 San Francisco public schools—approximately 1.5 million square feet of classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and libraries (the equivalent of painting Coit Tower 53 times)—will be painted by volunteers.

The project, officially called Honor Roll '92, is being organized by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, with the support of the San Francisco Unified School District and Painters Union Local 4.

Kelly-Moore Paint Co. of San Carlos will donate 5,000 gallons of paint, from stock damaged in the Loma Prieta Earthquake. Instead of repackaging the paint for sale, the company has created a color called "Earthquake White," to be used exclusively in San Francisco schools.

Last month, Edison Elementary in Noe Valley was the site for a formal announcement of the project. And during the ceremonies, Mayor Frank Jordan, School Superintendent Bill Rojas, and San Francisco Chamber of Commerce President Donald Doyle painted a wall of the school's cafeteria.

"We are mainly concentrating on get-



Edison Elementary students (from left) Luis Alvalos, Luc Alvalos, Pedro Perez, Massiel Perez, Maura McGowan, and Emily McGowan joined San Francisco School Superintendent Bill Rojas, Chamber of Commerce President Donald Doyle, and Joseph Cristiano, of Kelly-Moore Paint Co., in kicking off a volunteer "paint-in" of San Francisco schools Oct. 3-4.

PHOTO BY EDWARD KLAMM

ting the hallways done," said Graciela Spreitz, Edison's principal. "The hallways are the place that all the kids enjoy, and our biggest hope is simply to beautify the school."

Other participating schools in Noe Valley include James Lick Middle School, the Kate Kennedy Children's Center, and Rooftop, Alvarado, and Douglass elementary schools.

Besides painting, volunteers will pitch in and clean up the schools, doing everything from gardening and landscaping to cleaning the bleachers. Professional painters from Local 4 will supervise each school's painting operation.

Continued on Page 13



Some of San Francisco's finest guys and ghouls will be on hand to escort kids through the haunted house at the Upper Noe Recreation Center Oct. 30.

PHOTO BY KEVIN BLACK

Time for Scarehouse VIII

The neighborhood should be frightfully pleased to be invited to Noe Valley's eighth annual "Scarehouse" on Friday, Oct. 30, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Note that this is the day before Halloween, a change from previous years.)

The chills and thrills will take place within the ghostly halls of the Upper Noe Recreation Center, located at the corner of Day and Sanchez streets. Admission is \$2 for kids 13 and older, and \$1 for the younger ones (7 and up).

The Scarehouse is sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, but ghoulish volunteers are needed to help set the scene during the week of Oct. 26, or to work a monster shift Oct. 30.

For more blood and guts, call Kevin Black (aka Dr. Caligari Nosferatu) at 695-5011 between noon and 5 p.m. And remember, says Black, be kind to your



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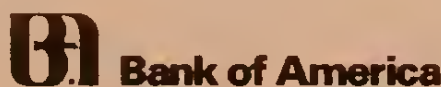


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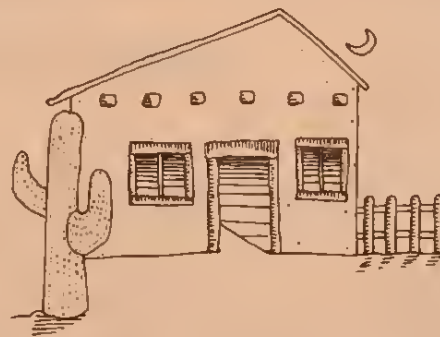
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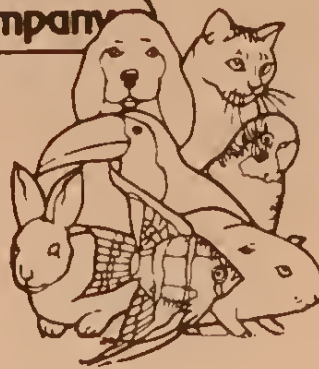
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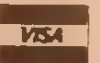
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—Steve Bosque

Randall Street resident Steve Bosque makes frequent trips to Billy Goat Hill (where Castro meets 30th Street) accompanied by his dog Mister

SHORT TAKES

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Freeman's Goes South

Freeman's...
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Alvarado After School

A new after-school program for kindergarten, first- and second-grade students at Alvarado Elementary School, 625 Douglass St., has opened its doors.

The program officially began operation on Sept. 9, but is still taking applications for the 1992-93 school year. First priority goes to students at Alvarado, but other families may apply and will be considered on a space-available basis.

The program is being managed by West Portal C.A.R.E., a licensed childcare program that has been at West Portal Elementary School since 1982. West Portal C.A.R.E. is a private, non-profit corporation governed by a parent board of directors.

If you'd like to know about the program's philosophy or curriculum, call 285-7756.

Autumn Flea Market

The Noe Valley Ministry's Annual Flea Market and Bake Sale, on Saturday, Oct. 10, says organizer Carol Maerzke, "promises many outstanding bargains:

...the possibility of finding...
...the possibility of finding...

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What's BEST for Kids

The BEST Agenda (Bringing Education and Services Together So All Children Can Excel) invites the public to a conference and Board of Education candidates forum on Oct. 10, 1992, at James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St., from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (reception 5 to 6 p.m.)

Morning workshops will focus on exploring children's needs in the public schools, and compiling questions for candidates and speakers. At noon, Superintendent Bill Rojas and Anthony Lincoln of the Mayor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families will address the conference and respond to questions shaped in the morning workshops.

Other program speakers include Willie Brown, speaker of the State Assembly, and Dr. Shirley Thornton, deputy superintendent of the California Department of Education.

Admission to the conference is \$15 to \$25, on a sliding scale, youth free. No one, however, will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information and registration, contact Sheila Rhatigan, the BEST Agenda, 1535 Mission St., S.F., CA 94103; 431-7430.

Back PAIN at Work
Neck
Shoulder



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TO RELIEVE PAIN AND STRESS

MOVEMENT CLASSES
TO RELIEVE PAIN AND STRESS

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FROM THAILAND • GUATAMALA • BALI • PERU

J-Car Overrun By Teenagers On Church St.

By Najib Joe Hakim

San Francisco police have arrested several of a group of teenagers who taunted passengers and vandalized a Muni J-car during rush hour on Friday, Aug. 21.

According to Ingleside Officer Tom Heffernan, a group of around 20 juveniles attacked the streetcar driven by Muni operator Gerald Bolden as it headed downtown from Church and 30th at 5:30 p.m.

During a 10-minute interval, the car was forced to stop at Church and Valley streets, as a core group of youths—some of whom had been riding the train—jumped on and off, hurled racial epithets at the driver and passengers, broke two windows, and ripped a 3-foot-long switching iron out of the rear operator cabin, brandishing it as a weapon. One passenger said he'd been angrily threatened and called "faggot" in the incident.



Ingleside police officers Tom Heffernan and Ana Lee interviewed witnesses following the Aug. 21 attack by teenagers on a J-line car at Church and Valley streets. PHOTO BY NAJIB JOE HAKIM.

Within minutes of responding to the scene, Heffernan and Officer Ana Lee arrested four suspects who had fled to the corner of Dolores and 28th streets. The passengers and train operator later positively identified three of the youths, ranging in age from 14 to 17.

Those three were cited for malicious mischief and for willfully causing a disturbance on a public transit system, and released to their families. □



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Mission CPOP Officer Lois Perillo covers a beat that stretches from 21st and Grand View to Army and Valencia. To reach her, or partner Lorraine Lombardo, call 647-2767.



PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Temporarily Thrown off Guard By Bike Crash

By Officer Lois Perillo

If you'd told me last month that my next column in the *Voice* would be about the day I flew six feet through the air without the aid of an airfoil, this former-aeronautics-major-turned-police-officer would probably have branded you an "800." (That's police code for mentally disabled.) Yet, here I am telling the tale of my being hit by a car while riding my patrol bicycle on 24th Street.

On Sept. 9 at about 4:30 p.m., I had just finished talking with Suzette Bennett at the French Tulip. I said goodbye, rolled my bicycle to the curb at 24th, and entered the street at the crosswalk, facing east. After fully mounting my bicycle, I stopped to see that the intersection of 24th and Sanchez was clear, and then I began to ride across it.

I was on my way to see Chuck Adkins at T. Marasco's wine store, a block down the street. But I didn't get far. As I reached the middle of the 46-foot intersection, I saw a white Chevrolet coming towards me on 24th Street in the opposite lane. Suddenly, without warning or signal, the car accelerated and began turning left onto Sanchez, directly into my path.

The driver was looking ahead and to his left (possibly at someone or something on the east side of Sanchez). His car's tires were squealing as I yelled, "Hey, w----," and turned my front wheel to the right. But I was hit before I could shout the words "watch out!"

The car struck my front wheel, fork, left knee, and elbow, and I flew from three feet outside the crosswalk to three feet within it. I landed with a bounce on my right side and the butt of my gun (ouch!). On impact, my right knee had slammed into the bicycle frame, which ejected out from under me.

Immediately, there were people around me offering aid. I remember at least two nurses, a psychotherapist, an off-duty airport police officer, and Barbara Jones from Joshua Simon. I know there were many more of you there, including the nameless woman who brought me water despite the nurses' objections. My thanks to all of you.

I called for help on my radio. How I dreaded telling dispatch, "519 [injury accident] at 24th and Sanchez, officer involved, need a 408 [ambulance]." After all, I had been riding safely for 2½ years of police bicycle patrol, and for 25 years of my life.

Sure, I had wiped out on questionable road surfaces before (while off duty, and without the involvement of a car). And I'd gotten nasty "road rash," abrasions caused by sliding along graveled pavement. But until that fateful Wednesday, I had never been involved in a serious and potentially life-threatening bike vs. car accident. It was frightening and maddening, especially considering the apparent inattention and disregard of the car's driver toward me as a cyclist.

After being treated at the hospital, I spent a week and a half at home recuperating from a knee strain and "multiple contusions" of both elbows and knees. At press time, I was back on light duty at Mission Station, anticipating a full recovery. By the time this issue of the *Voice* hits the streets, I should have returned to my beat in Noe Valley—yes, on my bike.

Now That I've Gotten That Out of the Way, here's an update on a couple of items I've mentioned in previous columns.

The man I arrested for attempting to

POLICE BEAT

burglarize a residence at Sanchez and 21st streets last April has pleaded guilty. Dwayne Robinson was sentenced to 12 months in state prison and remanded to the California Department of Corrections on Sept. 16.

Please remember to secure your small windows. This burglar somehow managed to climb up 15 feet to a tiny bathroom window, before the resident heard the noise and stopped the burglary in progress.

On the parking beat: Last month a man on Army Street contacted my partner, Officer Lorraine Lombardo, and informed her that he had received a note from someone accusing him of being a member of the San Francisco Parking Vigilantes. (The Vigilantes, whom I wrote about in September, are an underground group of citizens who have been tipping off the city to illegally parked cars in the neighborhood.)

The Army Street resident, who was upset about being falsely accused, invited Lorraine to attend a neighborhood meeting that he'd arranged to address his and the community's concerns. She went to the meeting, and reported that a valuable exchange of viewpoints took place. Also, the neighbors are now considering forming a SAFE (crime watch) group.

Noe Valley residents might be interested to know that parking vigilantism is a topic that's receiving national play. The San Francisco contingent was the subject of a piece in *Newsweek's* Sept. 14 edition.

Since There's No Place to Park in the city, you might find yourself driving around endlessly. So here are some tips on driving alone, excerpted from the *Nationwider*, a publication of Nationwide Insurance.

☞ Think ahead. Before your trip, plan the safest route and drive on well-lit, well-traveled streets. Keep your car in good condition. Never pick up a hitchhiker—you can't tell a person's character by appearance.

☞ Avoid a tail. If you think you are being followed, stay on active streets and make frequent turns, checking your mirrors. Still suspicious? Drive to a police station, gas station, or a busy store—not home.

☞ Employ a smart breakdown strategy. If your car suffers a mechanical problem, keep driving (slowly on a flat tire) until you reach help. If your car won't run, put on the emergency flashers, and display a sign or white cloth to alert police.

On a busy road, set out flares—part of an auto safety kit that should also include a flashlight, blanket, and tow company phone number. Stay in your car with your doors locked. (If you travel a lot, consider getting a membership in an auto club and a car phone.)

If a stranger offers aid, ask him or her to call for assistance. If you feel that he can repair your car, open the hood from the inside, but don't get out. If a person claims to be a plainclothes police officer, check his star/hadge and identification card.

☞ Strive to park smart, i.e., in well-lit, well-traveled places. Check for suspicious persons before you park, and then again before you open your door. Always lock your car. When you return, have your keys in hand, and glance into the car before entering.

That's All I Have Room for This Month. But lastly, I'd like to say thanks to the entire Noe Valley community for the numerous good wishes, speedy recovery messages, and get well cards.

See you on patrol in October! ☐



Noe Crimes Down But Car Break-ins Up Citywide

By Officer Steve Ratto

Hello, Noe Valley residents. It's time again for your monthly crime update from your one and only beat cop in the Church and 30th Street area.

I've got good news to start off the column this month. The DA's office has cracked under pressure from Ingleside CPOP, and has issued a warrant for the arrest of that piece of garbage I mentioned last time, the one who robs senior citizens on the streets of our great city. Hopefully, he will be caught soon and sentenced to his one and only environment: prison.

Also, the four major categories of crime that I keep track of—robbery, burglary, auto theft, and auto boosting—were all down in August on my beat.

However, residents should be aware that according to S.F.P.D. crime stats, auto boosts, or break-ins, are up 200 percent this year across the city, as compared with last year.

We're not sure why there has been such a sharp increase in these boosts, but from an officer's point of view, it's very difficult to catch a thief in the act of breaking into a car. This is because the thief often does his work between 2 and 6 a.m., and approaches the car on foot. He can break your window, enter the car, and remove your radio and valuables in under three minutes. Frequently, he has an accomplice waiting in a getaway car, so he can make an easy escape.

Here are a couple of tips to safeguard your valuables. When at all possible, park in your garage. If you don't have a garage and must park on the street, park in a well-lit area. Remove all valuables



PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Steve Ratto is the Community Police Officer for upper Noe Valley (from Sanchez and Army to Mission and 30th). His number at Ingleside Station is 333-3433.

from your car, and if possible, pull out your stereo. I also recommend a locking device like the Club for your steering wheel, and a car alarm with a "LED" light visible on your dashboard.

Since I've been walking the Noe Valley and outer Mission turf, calls for service have consistently gone down. When I first started walking the beat about a year and a half ago, plots 802, 803, 810, and 811 were each generating 300 to 600 calls for service a month. Now only plot 803 generates 150 to 300 calls. The other plots are under 100 calls.

For you folks who don't know what plots are, plots 803 and 811 go from Mission Street and Army out to 30th Street and up to Dolores. Plots 802 and 810 are bounded by Dolores, Army, and Randall, with Sanchez as a border on the west.

Anyway, the decline in calls is a sure sign that the CPOP program, which emphasizes foot or bike patrols, is a detriment to crime.

By the way, I received a copy of the September *Mission News* the other day from a friend in Noe Valley. He told me to read the article on CPOP.

The article was a good one, covering the high turnover and burnout among CPOP officers, but I think it was a little one-sided. I think the reporter should have come to interview someone at the Ingleside CPOP office. From what our commander tells us—and he oversees the Mission, Ingleside, and Taraval districts—according to the stats, ours is the most effective CPOP unit in the city. And we have little to no "burnout" among officers.

I sure hope this program will be expanded and have great success in the future. Let me know what you think. ☐



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Are You Going To the Noe Valley Fair?

By Jeff Kaliss

The cornucopia of culture that is our neighborhood will be spilling out onto the grounds of the Upper Noe Recreation Center this month, in observance of the second annual Noe Valley Neighborhood Party, hosted by Upper Noe Neighbors, the Friends of Noe Valley, and the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club.

On Sunday, Oct. 11, the center's playground, at Day and Sanchez streets, will be jumping with musical entertainment from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It will also be filled with the aromas of local food vendors (such as Verona's Pizza, Carl's Bakery, and Drewe's Market), and the merchandise and crafts of local artisans, shops, and community groups.

Says organizer Janice Gendreau, of Upper Noe Neighbors, "At least a thousand Noe Valleyans and friends came out to see their neighbors perform and display their crafts at our first Neighborhood Party [held in May of 1991]."

"And this year, people will have a chance to tour a police car [courtesy of CPOP Officer Steve Ratto, who'll be on hand to demonstrate the vehicle's computer wizardry], and dance to country, pop, blues, and Scottish music on an outdoor dance floor."

There'll also be the Moonwalk concession, "where kids can jump for joy like they did last year," said Gendreau, plus a number of hands-on demonstrations by various neighborhood service providers, such as physical therapists.

The musical lineup will feature country and western from the Swinging Doors, the jazz sounds of the Dana Atherton Trio, and rhythm and blues and rock, purveyed by the bands Dr. Hot Knife, Duck Soup, and Separate Reality.

And jazz drummer Eddie Marshall will take a break from his ongoing duties at local clubs and in nationwide tours to do a "surprise" set. Like last year, we'll have to wait to find out what other musicians Marshall will muster, but he'll probably bring his second-favorite instrument, the recorder (the tootling and not the taping kind).

Marshall and spouse Sue Trupin live a mere drumbeat away from Upper Noe,

STEPPING OUT IN NOE VALLEY



The Festival Consort, a group specializing in medieval and Renaissance music, will perform Oct. 25 in the Noe Valley Ministry's classical music series.

and Trupin points out that "our kids have grown up on that block, and we're indebted to the center." (One of the kids, Reevan, attended the School of the Arts, up on the hill, at which his father also taught. His brother Gabriel appeared in the documentary *Truth or Dare*, as a member of Madonna's touring dance team.)

Funnyman Barry Lank, a 25th Street stalwart, will also put in an appearance at the Neighborhood Party, with his partner in comedy, Jim Earl. Lank & Earl have been performing at Holy City Zoo, the Other Cafe, and elsewhere around the Bay for years. They represent a rarity on several counts: they do stand-up as a duo, they're eminently theatrical, and

they generate an act that places their hilariously dorky personae into cutting-edge absurdist situations.

"The only problem for a comic who lives in this neighborhood," testifies Lank, "is that when I get home from a gig, the only place I can hang out is at Happy Donuts." But just think of the good material you can find there, Barry.

Roger "Mazook" Rubin will serve as emcee at the party, coming out from behind the anonymity of his monthly *Voice* column.

"The Neighborhood Party provides a chance for our neighborhood groups to strut their stuff, letting all of us know that we're better than everyone else."

Rubin says modestly. He and journalist wife Renée Koury, who are featured in this month's "More Mouths to Feed" column, will also use the opportunity to show off their newest supplement, 8-month-old daughter Shayna. "She'll be on stage doing baby rap."

For further particulars on the party, give Janice Gendreau a call at 641-5989.

Another Notable Happening in October is a benefit for Noe Valley Sunday Afternoons, the chamber music series that was launched last spring by the Noe Valley Ministry, at 1021 Sanchez St.

On Sunday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m., the Festival Consort, accompanied by members of the Holy Oak Vocal Trio, will give a pre-Halloween concert featuring Renaissance and medieval music. The Consort's instruments include the shawm (a fore-runner of the oboe), the crumhorn, and the hurdy-gurdy, which is shaped like a lute but played by turning a crank.

"They'll be doing what they call songs of 'ordinary madness,'" says series coordinator Karen Heather. "That's pagan rituals and supernatural ballads, and lyrics dealing with the darker side of humanity: drunkenness, murder, war, and lust."

Heather reports that last season's classical series "ended up in the black, financially, but now we're on our way to establishing a board of directors, and we need to get donor support."

Local residents and merchants who'd like to help ensure the continuation of the series should contact Heather at her Ministry office, 282-2317. □



Comedians Lank & Earl (Barry Lank and Jim Earl) will goof around in the daylight at the Noe Valley Neighborhood Party, to unfold Oct. 11 on the playing field at Upper Noe Rec Center.

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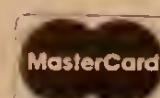
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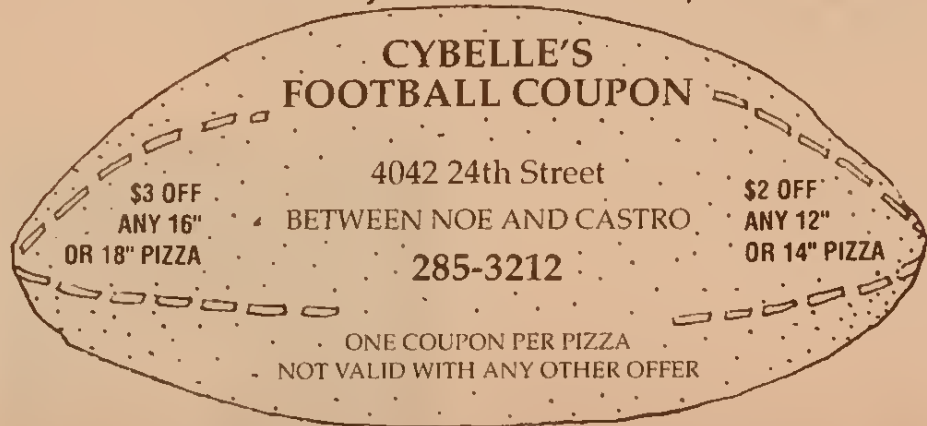
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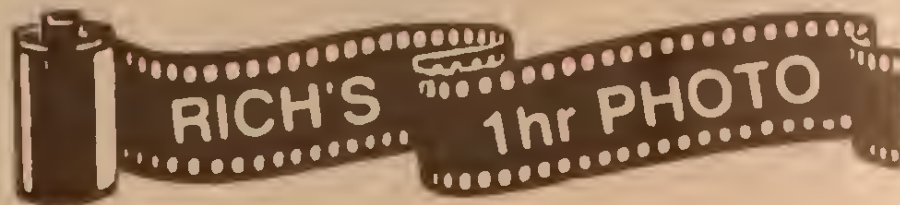
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Jeremy Kotas: An Architect Who Keeps the Fun in His Frameworks

By Jane Underwood

Laidley Street architect Jeremy Kotas is wearing a bright, greenish-yellow shirt that sets off a green tie hursting with huge purple, rust, and cream-colored polka dots.

The polka dots seem to gesture to the large, tetrahedron-shaped "sculpture" of bowling balls on his living room floor. And both the tie and the howling hells reflect Kotas' boldly innovative and humorous vision, as well as his abiding love of design.

Kotas' architectural creations are known not only around the world, but also right on his own block of Laidley Street (just south of Noe and 30th), where he has designed more than half a dozen houses.

One of those rare birds who doesn't make much of a distinction between work and play, Kotas dives enthusiastically into talking about his career. For him, architecture is a passion and a pleasure.

"Have you heard about Mary Pleasant—thought to be a famous madam—and her connection with the Bell Mansion over here [at 192–96 Laidley]?" he asks.

"The Bell Mansion was supposedly built by an attorney, Bell, who had a connection with Pleasant. And this big 1870s house was probably the only thing out here for many years, except for the milk stop near where Robert Pritikin now lives [the Pritikin Mansion, at 30th and Chenery streets]. Mary Pleasant had these little cribs, as they called them—cabins or cottages that businessmen would get on the train and come out to at lunch time, for what were known as 'nooners.'"

"Well, I bought a cottage at 135 Laidley St. in 1975, and turned it into the first house I did here, which is known as Laidley Castle. When I bought it, it was a little tiny cottage with wonderful foundations, essentially one room with a little sleeping room down below—cabin would be a better word.

"Then I was told that I had bought the last of these little cribs. It had a few boards horizontally, and a lot of shingles over it, like a big basket.

"What we did was extend the foundations and build up, and in the process, it was totally transformed."

At the time, Kotas, now 48, was just starting out, and had a job working for the Planning Department. "I didn't have



Architect Jeremy Kotas would have to wear a pretty outrageous getup to outshine the dramatic facade of his current residence at 123 Laidley St.—one of over half a dozen homes he's designed on the block. PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD

any money," he says. "The reason it was called the Castle is because I was a young architect ambitious to do my first building. I thought I might never get to do another one, and I wanted to test my ideas.

"I had been living in a storefront down in the Mission, and living in one big space like that was what informed the main plan of this house. It's one big room, but it's done with a series of alcoves, so you can't see it all at once. In order to experience the space and the qualities of the space, you have to move through it."

Ray and Kay Roberts, who bought Laidley Castle in 1981 (when Kotas moved down the street to another cottage he has since rebuilt, at 123 Laidley), were drawn to the house right away. "We had looked at a lot of Victorians, and realized that they were very dark and compartmentalized," recalls Ray.

The high-beamed ceilings and openness appealed to them, along with "the fact that he left the plywood ceiling, which has really turned a very nice sort of honey color. A lot of people who walked through looking at the house when it was for sale said, 'Jeremy, when are you gonna finish the ceiling?' And he said, 'That's the way it is.' And they'd walk through and leave. But to me, that's

one of the more interesting aspects of the house."

Perhaps the most interesting aspect, however, is the sliding garage door that forms most of the front wall of the house, rolling up to flood the kitchen with air and light. "Jeremy's very, very whimsi-



Jeremy Kotas, partner Tony Pantaleoni, and housemate Skip Shaffer stand in front of a garage at 128 Laidley that's made from one of Kotas' favorite materials: plywood

cal," laughs Ray, "and because of that, very creative."

"When I lived there," says Kotas, "if I was off on a Saturday, I'd roll it up in the morning and it'd stay up all day long. And the neighborhood cats and dogs would come by and pay a visit. Neighbors would see it was open, and they'd drop in and have coffee."

The most fun part of designing Laidley Castle, says Kotas, was fancying up its facade in an original way, but without entirely disregarding San Francisco's architectural history. "I collected together a pile of things that were, to me, reminiscent of California architectural events and traditions—Victorian in the fence and iron cresting, and Mission Revival in the shape of this parapet arch and in the stairway railings. It's an eclectic motif of bits and pieces of California's past, present, and future.

"But the single most important connection with California's architectural past is the landscape. This bougainvillea is a huge pile of magenta color, and that cotoneaster is still there. You know, Bernard Maybeck used to say that a house was merely an excuse to get out of the garden in case it rained."

Maybeck, an early 20th century archi-

Continued on Page 20



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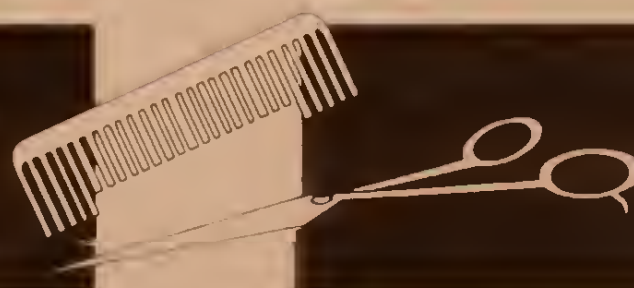
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Architect in Residence on Laidley Street

Continued from Page 19

tect, definitely influenced Kotas, whose back yard at 123 Laidley pays homage to his mentor's love of the outdoors. The sloping hill beneath the deck has a cozy cobblestone terrace (made of cobblestones taken from Laidley Street in the 1930s) surrounded by a landscape unique in its "fencelessness."

"The fence just kind of collapsed," Kotas explains, "so we removed it and never put up another. (A few neighbors have followed suit.) If all the fences disappeared, we would have a park in common. The sense of openness is considerably greater as soon as the fences are gone, because you can't see through the foliage, so you have no idea how far it goes, and it really feels much more like a little splendid piece of wilderness."

Southern California architect Frank Gehry has been another big influence. After graduating from U.C. Berkeley in architecture and moving to Los Angeles in 1971, Kotas worked with Gehry for two years.

"Frank made the chain link fence popular and respectable," notes Kotas. "And he's done all sorts of great, funny, wacky houses—big, strange things."

"His buildings promote a sense of exuberance that I find irresistible. Think about it. Buildings are for the most part simple, stupid, economic calculations, where somebody wants to use the techniques of constructing a box. But of course, once you claim one as *your* box, then the emotional stuff takes root and flourishes."

"From the outside, this house I live in now is a little box. And if I took the colors off the box, it would lose a considerable amount of its exuberance." The house is coated with a lively and unconventional combination of blue, yellow, coral, and green paint, reminiscent of primitive Mexican folk art, and topped by—what else?—a Mobile Oil sign.

"I've always been fascinated with commercial signs and letters," Kotas says. "I used to collect them." He walks over to a wall of bookshelves and pulls out a wooden letter "K" from a nook. "This K, I've had it for years. It's an abstract version of 'Keep on Trucking,' you know that cartoon? And it's also the letter K from a really wacky sign."

The fantasy that inhabits Kotas' work gets balanced by the practicality of his partner, Anthony Pantaleoni. "Tony is very thorough and pragmatic," says Kotas. "He's always trying to bring me into the ordinary, normal level of the 20th century."

Their combined insights have garnered many awards for their 11-year-old architectural firm, Kotas/Pantaleoni, located in the South of Market area. Those include a 1989 Award of Honor for Design Excellence from the American Institute of Architects, several *Sunset* magazine Western Home Awards (one for the house they did at 102 Laidley), and a Golden Nugget Grand Award for Most Innovative Housing, from Pacific Coast Builders. Of these, Kotas is most proud of the last,



The solid circular railing of the sleeping loft in Jeremy Kotas' house at 123 Laidley St. provides privacy, but also allows him to talk to guests in the living room below, "while I'm brushing my teeth," he says. PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD

because it gives recognition, he says, to "a departure from the norm."

"You know, architecture is a very complicated thing," Kotas says. "In the biggest sense, it's [about creating] form, like the dome of City Hall. The dome stands for the dome of heaven, it stands for perfection and the centrality of power."

But after you decide on the form, you have to pick the materials—and this gets

to the heart of Kotas' interest in designing "vernacular" buildings—or structures that respect "plain, ordinary, everyday" local building traditions.

"This is a plywood box," he points out. "But there can be cement, plaster, stucco, or colored plexiglass. You have a lot more ability to express things through materials, and materials have a lot to do with vernacular building traditions."

"For instance, traditional buildings in Italy were always rendered over in stucco. The Romans used actual marble, because they had a lot of slaves and could afford to have it cut. In San Francisco, a traditional building material used at the turn of the century was clapboard siding—channel rustic siding."

"Today we have plywood, and what we can do is explore plywood as a vernacular. For instance, we built a house in the Mission District and turned sheets of plywood sideways, as a modern, over-scaled reference to clapboard siding."

Finally, Kotas continues, architecture is "the actual shaping of the individual elements." The roof at Laidley Castle slopes to the street, for example, and so he took the vertical line of the roof's drainpipe, and extended it into a flagpole.

"Did you know that one of San Francisco's nicknames at the turn of the century was City of Flags? In those days, a lot of people arrived by boat, and so from the water level, as the city went up over the hills, buildings would have flags over their front doors. There were flags everywhere. Given the breezes, there was this little extra motion. It must've been a wonderful thing to see. Anyway, the flagpole on this house was my way of localizing and personalizing that whole idea."

Or take Kotas' personal perspective on bathtubs. "One of my pet peeves," he declares, "is why do we stick bathing areas in tiny little closets? I've never seen why a bathtub should be just crammed in with the toilet. The Victorians started out right when they had a water closet and a bathing room."

"In Laidley Castle, I tried to put the bathtub on wheels, so you could wheel it over by the fireplace, or wheel it over by the view. Well, that's very costly to do, but I'm working on it, and I'll do it the next time I do a house." In the meantime, Kotas' own bathtub is situated in a special little bathtub "compartment" built into the wall of his loft bedroom.



Kotas' design for the Walgreens at Castro and Jersey in Noe Valley was titled, appropriately, "Small Town Drugstore."

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Jeremy Kotas Builds Castles In the Air and on the Ground

In 1987, Kotas and his housemate of several years, Skip Shaffer ("Skip is what I would call an artist/architect, where the art of architecture is his purest concern"), collaborated on designing a distinctly un-Victorian house at 140 Laidley. And they ruffled more than a few neighbors' feathers.

"For a while," recalls Kotas, "people called it Hell House. But then the neighborhood kids started calling it Owl House," perhaps because of the split pediment on the facade, which bears a distinct resemblance to a pair of eyebrows—one of them quizzically raised.

"It's a very adventuresome house," Kotas says of the three-story, 40-foot-high structure with 20-foot windows. "As you go up through the house, it gets increasingly more light, so at the top, there's a sort of frenzy of light from all directions. So it's a progress from dark to light, and from the past, down below, to the future, up above. It's also a travel from compression to expansion."

The Owl House, completed last year, is owned by Dick Ingraham, a retired geneticist, and Bill Gregory, an audiometrist. Says Ingraham, "Did you see the article that appeared in the *Examiner* on a dream house, the features that it would have? Well, all of them are incorporated in this house—cubic space, volume, not having a lot of walls. In the Victorian home, when everything was shameful, sex and all of that, of course you wanted to have privacy, so you cut it up into all these little cubicles. But in a more liberal age, that seems to be rather ridiculous. What you want is space, volume, light, and airiness."

"I'm interested in increasing people's awareness of the world around them," says Kotas. "You can live in this tiny little Victorian world—many people in San

Francisco do. There's nothing wrong with that; I'm just not interested in it."

"In the Owl House, I'm concentrating on that aspect of a building that's hardest to pin down, which is being alive and being in it... When Dick and Bill's house was going up, Bill was very nervous, thinking, God, they can see me when I'm going to bed at night. And I never talked to him about it, and by the time the thing was done, and he'd experienced it for himself, he realized that hey, ain't nobody gonna see you runnin' around raw up there, and if they are, so what? He accommodated himself to that idea. Of course, not everyone could do that."

Born in Seattle but raised in South Dakota, Kotas speculates that "it was growing up on the Great Plains that influenced my ideas about architecture. The Great Plains is one soothing platitude, and the buildings punctuate it like little jumbly events, whether they're the farming parts—you see trees and buildings in little clumps—or those little towns with grain elevators and church spires. Out on the grassland plains, the towns alone are the only monuments, and then natural features begin to take over—huffs and cliffs and isolated mesas. I still prefer that landscape above all, where you see

The Kotas landmarks on Laidley are so distinctive that they each have a name. The building with all the angles at 102 Laidley (above, left) is called the K.P. House (for Kotas/Pantaleoni). 134 Laidley, has been dubbed the Sand Castle, because of its wavy first story; and the impressive structure at 140 Laidley, the one with the eyebrows, is called the Owl House.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD

the essentials, the pure essentials of a given thing or situation.

"When I was a boy, we lived in one of those funny old houses that had enclosed porches, very vernacular. And it was those buildings that gave me the feelings I have for buildings. That, and seeing modernistic churches go up on the plains. My mother and my Aunt Leona went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, when I was about 8 or 9 years old, and they went out of their way to see this church, because they were very religious women. I remember thinking that this was a great event, if they drove all the way out of the way to see this building. I don't know that I made anything of the building, but I made a lot of their reaction to it."

In fact, Kotas' small town upbringing may have come in handy when his firm designed the Walgreen's store (formerly Little Bell) at Castro and Jersey streets in Noe Valley.

"We showed them five variations," he says. "One had the proportions of a Victorian building—we put bay windows up there as ghosts, just the timber outline, very beautiful. The fog would have come in through the windows—it would have been a storefront down below, with this

Victorian ghost looming up.

"But they chose the one we called 'Small Town Drugstore.' It's very sweet, meant to be cheerful and commodious.

"The best thing Walgreen's did was that they bought into that little tile bench and then that little tile wall—simple devices, but they certainly give the parking lot more of a human scale, like a walled garden or any other thing you cherish, because parking's a valuable commodity."

New Noe Valley projects include a house on Elizabeth Street near Castro ("The owner's in the auto repair business, and I'm working hubcaps into the theme") and a building on Church Street between 22nd and 23rd ("We did a play on Edwardian things, but we did it in a way that you also know it's a modern building").

"I'm very aware of older buildings and traditions in San Francisco and elsewhere," Kotas adds. "But the world isn't gonna stay rooted in 1992 or 1892; the world is gonna go on and do whatever it does."

And Kotas is gonna go on turning heads with his version of late 20th cen-

And Kotas is gonna go on turning heads with his version of late 20th century architecture—even if it strikes some people as just a little too far out.

"Everything around us was designed by somebody. Everything!" he says. "I mean, the locations of these trees, and yes, even the trees themselves, in some cases.

"Everything we come in touch with, unless you lay on your back and look at the sky and put blinders on, is a human creation. And it just amazes me. Every so often I think that thought, and it just seems overwhelmingly important that we know as much about ourselves and the world around us as possible, since we're making it. We are making this world." □

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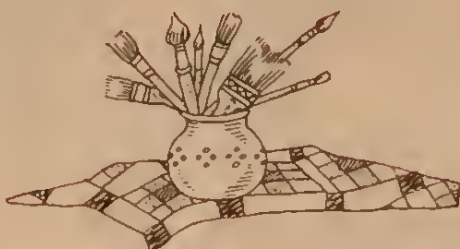
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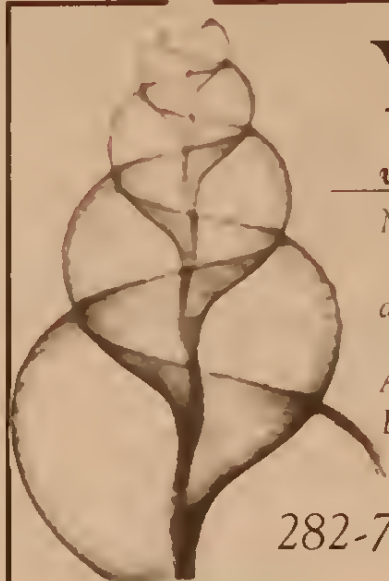
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Asian-American Themes Take Center Stage In the Plays of Philip Gotanda

By Larry Beresford

Philip Kan Gotanda's portrayals of Japanese-American family life are rooted in the stories of his parents and grandparents, as well as in his own childhood in Stockton, Calif.

"For me," recalls the 41-year-old playwright and screenwriter, "Stockton is hot summers and foggy autumns and winters, and also the fact that it's flat and surrounded by farm land. At times the fog shrouds the whole city all day long and all night long, and creates this strange surreal atmosphere."

"Some of my early childhood memories are of my father, who loved to go out fishing in the delta, or duck hunting in autumn. He would drive out into the fog and disappear and come back again with these ducks," Gotanda says.

"He was also the last of the old-style country doctors. People would come to his office; they wouldn't have an appointment. He serviced a lot of the Japanese-American population, going out to the farmers in the delta. All night long, my father would get phone calls. I'd hear him getting up, and he'd grab his black bag, and my mother sometimes would get up and make him a cup of coffee, and he would go. And when I'd get up he'd be coming in, sometimes with a crate of tomatoes or a gunnysack of corn."

"That was Stockton for me. You could go to the outskirts, and these fields would go on and on. Sometimes you'd smell the air—the sour sweet smell of rotting fruit would just waft over the town."

Such images resonate in Gotanda's plays, which have been widely produced on stage and television in the past decade, earning him Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, three Rockefeller play-writing awards, and most recently, the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Writer's Award.

Gotanda, however, did not set out to be a writer. "It was all by accident," he explains, from the dining room of his Diamond Street Victorian. In fact, back in the 1960s, he started out as a musician, playing guitar and singing in rock bands.

"We were big fans of the Kinks," recalls Gotanda, who, with his prominent earring and Lyle Lovett hairdo, still maintains somewhat of a stage persona. "We were a garage band. The neighbors complained, called the police—the usual stories. Then after I got out of college, I tried to make it as a singer/songwriter in the Bay Area, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles."

In the mid-1970s, country-rock artists like the Eagles and Jackson Browne were big. "I was very much into their music," Gotanda notes, "but doing it with Asian-American themes, with songs like 'The All-American Asian Punk' and 'Ballad of the Issei' [first-generation Japanese-Americans], which was not too commercially viable at that time," he laughs.

After several years of hustling but not making a living at his music, Gotanda felt worn down and burned out. "All my friends were becoming doctors and lawyers," he says, "and here I was singing in



Playwright, rock musician, and screenwriter Philip Gotanda recently added filmmaking to his repertoire, and he staged some of the scenes for his first venture, *The Kiss*, at What's for Dessert on Church Street. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

these sleazy clubs at open mikes."

So he stopped performing and enrolled at Hastings Law School in San Francisco. But after only a couple of years, his artist's heart "really missed the music," and during lulls in lecture halls or while working at the North Beach-Chinatown legal aid office, he wrote a rock opera called *The Avocado Kid*, based on a Japanese fairy tale. The musical was accepted by a Los Angeles theater group called East West Players, and in 1979 Gotanda happily closed his law books and headed south.

"I knew nothing about the whole process of theater," he admits. "But I went down to L.A. and worked with them and played in the band and had a real fun time—and then just kept on doing it."

In the 13 years since *The Avocado Kid*, Gotanda has written numerous plays and film scripts. There was *A Song for a Nisei Fisherman*, a play about a second-

generation, Hawaiian-born Japanese-American like Gotanda's late father; and *Yankee Dawg You Die*, about Asian-American actors working in Hollywood, which premiered at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre in 1989.

He also wrote *The Wash*, which was originally produced by American Playhouse for public television and later staged in New York and Los Angeles. His *Fish Head Soup*, an angry critique of "the American disease of racism," premiered last year at the Berkeley Rep, and will be revived in a revised version next year at San Francisco's Asian American Theater Company.

Throughout his career Gotanda has followed the classic writer's dictum: write what you know.

"I'm just trying to tell stories that I feel passionately about," he says. "The fact that they're Asian-American or Japanese-American is simply because that's what

I am. I think that you have to tell your tale as specifically as possible, from as deep an emotional and cultural standpoint as you can. The better you can do that, the more universal it becomes."

Over the past year, Gotanda has been re-working *The Avocado Kid*—in collaboration with Dan Kuramoto, founder of the popular fusion jazz-pop band Hiroshima—for the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. He also recently directed *Uncle Tadeo*, a play by a Japanese-Canadian friend, R. A. Shiomi.

And he's been branching out in a new direction: filmmaking.

"I had been wanting to direct my own film for a while," he says. "They would let me write but not direct, which makes sense because film is a very expensive medium. So I decided to do my own. I went out and raised the money, and wrote, shot, produced, acted in, and directed a 14-minute short called *The Kiss*."

Filmed earlier this year at Gotanda's favorite Noe Valley haunt—the Church Street coffeehouse What's for Dessert—*The Kiss* features Gotanda's own actor and filmmaker friends, and "tells a day in the life of an office worker, and how one event forces him to either act and be brave and change his life, or else stay the same kind of office bureaucrat and paper pusher."

Gotanda says his more recent projects have been influenced by the disturbing rise in Japan-bashing and acts of violence committed against Asian-Americans—as well as the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, and the ensuing media focus on tensions between African-Americans and Korean-Americans.

"For me it's been a time of realizing that the model I have used to look at the world, born out of the 1960s and 1970s—the third world movement, with black brothers and sisters and Asian brothers and sisters all being one together—doesn't work anymore. It's a different world. There's a great deal of racial tension among everybody these days, and to feel it you only have to walk down the street," Gotanda says.

"It comes ultimately from not having enough information, and not getting groups to sit down together and dialogue. You've got to force it to happen, and it's not easy, and it isn't always pretty."

Gotanda recently developed a series of programs at East West Players featuring a cross-cultural dialogue on stage between an Asian-American playwright, David Henry Hwang, and an African-American playwright and performance artist, Anna Devereaux-Smith, "interviewing each other about their work, asking questions, and opening it up to the audience." He is also working with African-American director Timothy Bond, whom he met at a recent theater conference, on a new production of *Fish Head Soup*, which will play in Seattle.

To avoid writer's isolation, and keep in touch with some social reality, Gotanda often does his writing in coffee shops around the city. "I just bring my little portable laptop computer and sit at What's for Dessert, with all these people around producing a kind of white noise—so I can trick myself into not thinking about what I'm doing," he says.

Gotanda and his wife, Diane Emiko Takei, an actress and real estate agent, discovered What's for Dessert after they moved to Glen Park four years ago.

"Mervyn's is my favorite place to go," he adds. "He even lets me plug in my computer when I start running out of battery power. . . . And he let us shoot *The Kiss* there. I even put Mervyn and his son, Jason, in the film." □

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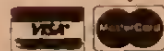
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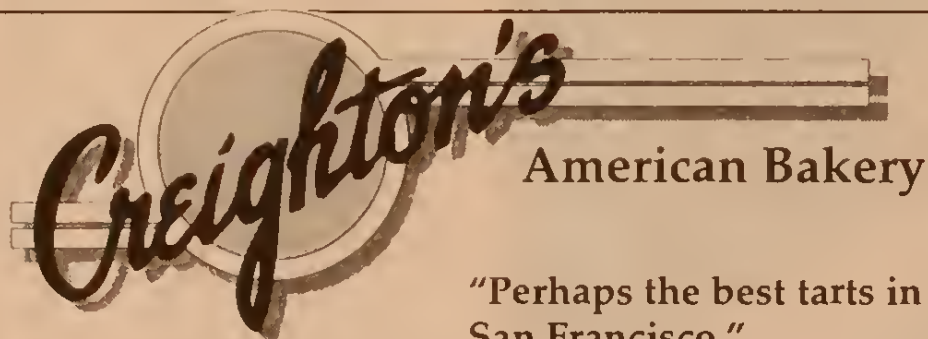
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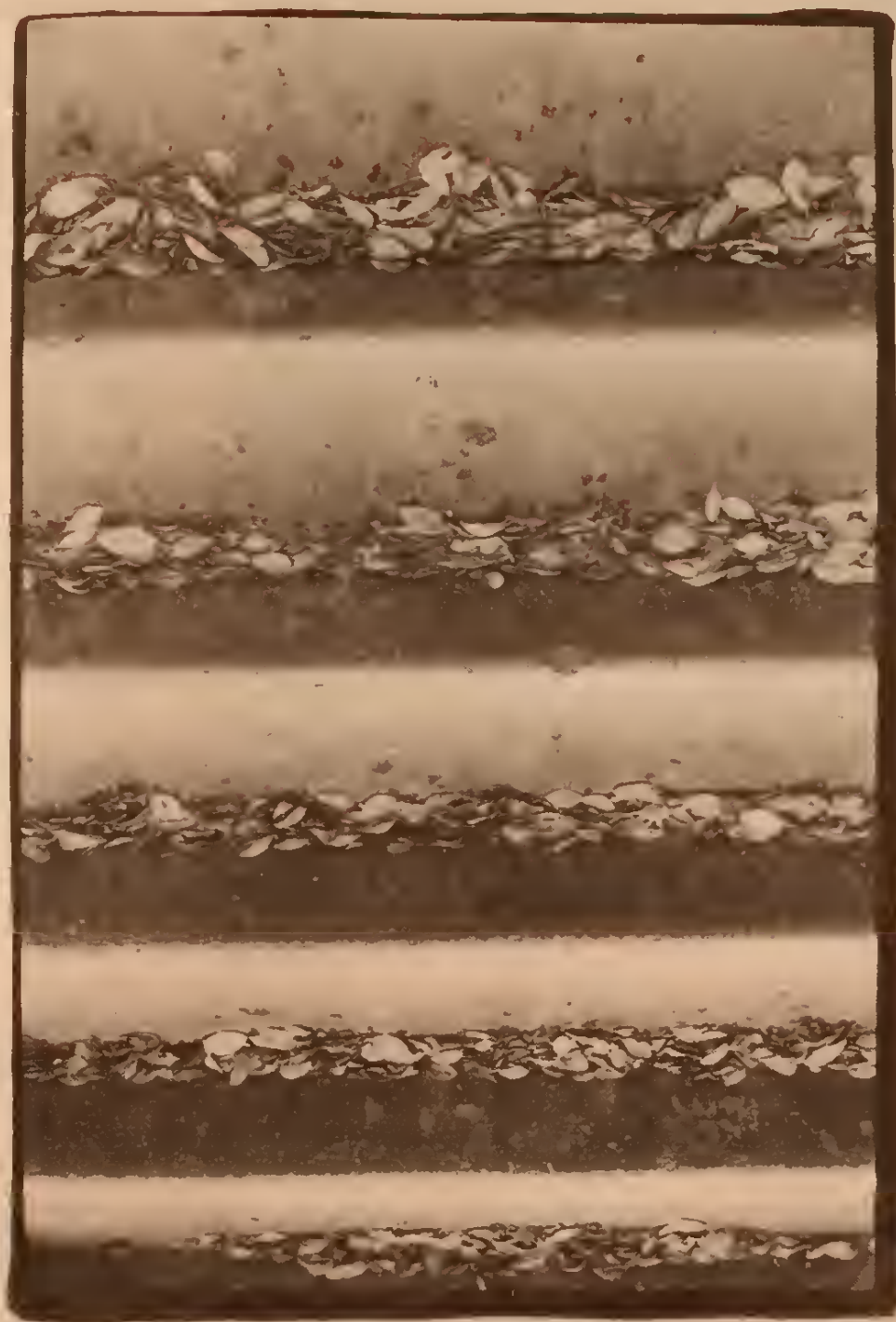
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A View from The Jury Box

responded by saying, "I deserve the right to give false and improper information." He was invited into the judge's chambers, along with a lady who had been holding a gurgling and cooing baby all morning. The rest of us took a break, and when we returned, the three of them were no longer among us.

Because the new case was complicated and would last for an estimated three weeks, the judge took three hours to hear the many financial hardship pleas from potential jurors. While we waited, Frieda, another Rose person, and I decided to check out the other courtrooms. While doing so, we continued our lively discussion concerning the pros and cons of jury duty. I felt that I was paying my dues to society, but Frieda, who had been called too often for her taste, complained that she was being overcharged and overworked.

We postponed our debate as we explored, and discovered that all the courts looked the same except for two, which had original paintings on the wall. In Room 402, a brilliant modern abstraction in tones of red was an enlivening contrast to the staid and muted interior.

Room 472 contained a large, somber, mysterious canvas that held our attention for a short time, but as we left, we were arrested by a second painting, belonging to the San Francisco Arts Commission, which depicted a larger-than-life, perfectly rendered likeness of a mounted policeman, and bore the signature of Noe Valley artist Mark Adams.

We then decided to inspect the enormous excavation made to accommodate the new library on the other side of Civic Center plaza, and then to visit the old public library, where we could view the old-fashioned but poetic murals of another age, by Piazonni and Du Mond.

After that, we lunched leisurely at the cafeteria of the Hastings School of Law nearby, where contemporary art is also exhibited. Here we found another creation by Mark Adams, this time in poster form—a Museum of Modern Art reproduction in rich reds titled "A Bowl of Borscht," which made our mouths water. I was struck by Adams' versatility, as I recalled his magnificent tapestry, on exhibit a few months ago at the de Young Museum, which featured a large lotus.

As we ambled back toward the court, we joined a spirited demonstration that was being held in the hope of restoring

the state budget for programs for the disabled. We knew that voices of demonstrators often wafted through the courtrooms. A few days earlier, we had listened to the chanting of those fighting to save the jobs of the janitorial union. We also heard from another group chanting, "Free Mary Jane," in support of the little old lady who had been charged with baking cookies laced with marijuana, to ease the pain of the terminally ill.

Before court can proceed, all of the prospective jurors must be questioned—first by the judge and then by all of the lawyers—to make sure that they will be impartial. Frieda, who was determined to wiggle out of the whole thing, used every ploy that she could muster.

She raised her hand whenever a hint of an escape appeared. Seniors are exempt from jury duty, she ventured, only to be informed that this was completely untrue. She was a lawyer's wife, she declared, and as such should be disqualified. Good try, but not so.

And when the judge read off a list of witnesses and asked if anyone was acquainted with them or any of the lawyers, up shot Frieda's hand. Further questioning, however, revealed that the witness had only sat on a panel of the book club that Frieda belonged to. Judge Bea asked her, "Do you think that I would believe that this could influence your judgment?"

"I was hoping so," Frieda blurted out. And everyone laughed at her honesty.

On that same day, Frieda was placed on the alternate row, and I was bounced over her to a seat on the jury. As I sat there, one of the lawyers called out Frieda's name, saying, "Mrs. T., I will excuse you because I think you have it coming to you!" Everyone roared again, but the happiest person was Frieda, who triumphantly strode out of the courtroom.

We really missed her, but in the weeks that followed, we jurors who were thrown together almost at random turned out to be a friendly mixture. One young lady, Martha, lived in Noe Valley and read the *Voice* regularly, she said. Bill, who sat next to me, noticed my doodling and suggested the title for this article.

Because of the surroundings, several



of us recalled our impressions of the mayor during whose tenure our City Hall was built. While taking in the beautiful details of this fine civic building, we couldn't help but note the large Roman letters at the base of the cupola: "JAMES ROLPH JUNIOR," who served from 1912 to 1931.

Those years brought back fond memories to one couple on the jury. Al, who sat behind me, lived near the Civic Center as a boy. He often sailed paper airplanes down into the City Hall rotunda, and he kept track of the mayor's schedule, so that he would be present whenever "Sunny Jim" entered or left his office, because this generous man had the habit of giving a quarter, which was a lot of money then, to any little boy he encountered.

Little girls weren't neglected either. Another fellow juror, Jean, remembered how her father took her downtown so that she could meet the great man. She still remembers his smiling face.

And every day after jury duty, as I rode home on the J-car, I thought of what Helen Hughes Helfrich, my next-door neighbor for 25 years, had told me. She enjoyed remembering her first trip on the J-line after its completion. Her father took her, but it was Mayor Rolph who held her at the front of the car to the end of the line. Everyone loved "Sunny Jim," Noe Valley's favorite son! They just don't make mayors like that anymore.

At the end of each day in court, the judge admonished us not to speak or communicate in any way concerning the case, at risk of prosecution! And my lips are still sealed.

However, I think it is now permissible to mention that on more than one occasion, I heard a snore coming from someone seated behind me on the jury. Thank goodness for the interruption, though—it woke me up! □



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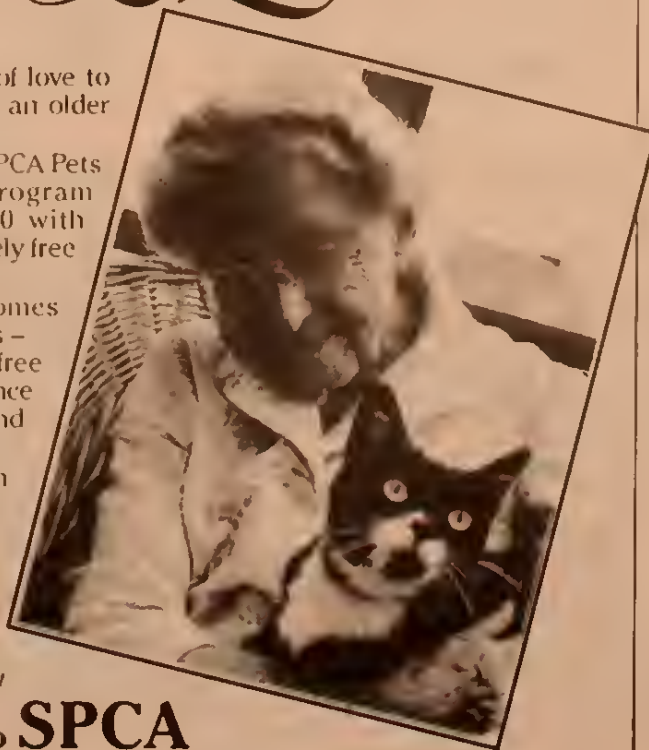
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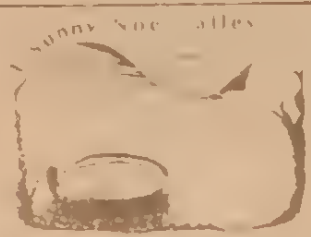
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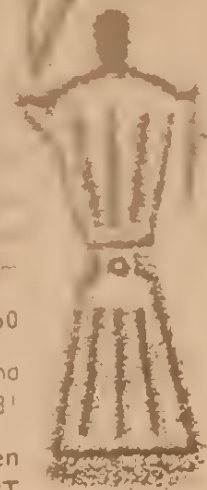
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Homage to the Hook and Ladder Society: In celebration of its 125th anniversary, the San Francisco Fire Department held a parade in Golden Gate Park Sept. 27, featuring 120 new and antique fire engines, such as the horse-drawn apparatus shown above. PHOTO COURTESY OF DOROTHY DEL NEGRO AND FAMILY

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Steve Roseman
 Answering machine number: 285-3532
 Mailing Address: 4444 24th St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe
 Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
 Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Room
 108, James Lick School, 1220 Nne St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: J. P. Gillen, 821-1515
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460574,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank
 of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938
 Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium,
 24th and Guerrero streets

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Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
 Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe
 Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets,
 7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.

Duncan-Newburg Association

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,
 Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or
 Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Irregular

Glen Park Association

Contact: Joan Seiwald, 586-4448
 Mailing Address: Glen Park Association,
 P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Second Tuesday of month, Glen
 Park Recreation Center, Elk and Chenery,
 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rick Hauptman, 647-0549
 Mailing Address: 1595 Noe St., #6,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Third Wednesday of month, Noe
 Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7 p.m.

Clipper Street SAFE Group

Contact: Don Kern or Howard Johnson,
 821-3866.
 Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany
 Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

RAAGE (Race Awareness Arbitration Group Education)

Contact: Donna Bervinchak, 282-4742
 Mailing Address: c/o Noe Valley Ministry,
 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Tuesdays, Noe Valley Ministry,
 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m. Call to confirm.

Liberty-Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barhey, 695-0990, or
 Hilda Bernstein, 282-8232
 Mailing Address: 3333 21st St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings: Quarterly.
 Call for time and location.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Al Ujcic, 648-3545, or
 Susan Nutter, 285-8484
 Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe
 Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: First Thursday of the month,
 7:30 p.m. Call for location

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847
 Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St.,
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 Meetings: Irregular

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Shooting the Breeze on 24th Street

THE FACE OF DOWNTOWN NOE VALLEY always seems to be changing, but the sensory experience of strolling down Main Street has remained virtually the same for the past 15 years.

Little Italy, at 24th near Castro, still fills your nose with wafting garlic, just like the it did when it opened in the late '70s. Common Scents, a block away, has those delightful fragrances spilling out the door. And what about the "who-cut-the-cheese" effect you get when passing by the 24th Street Cheese Company, another institution in the neighborhood.

As for the sound effects, there's the boisterous chatter emanating from 24th Street's many venerable pubs, and the slurping of foam outside the coffee emporiums—which is only occasionally drowned out by the roar of internal combustion engines going to and fro.

Then there's the daily screeching of the pneumatic drills at Noe Valley Auto Works and at Dan's Gas (here since the early 1930s, when it was called McCarthy's Service Station).

Your eyes can be widened by the dramatic window displays in stores like Joshua Simon or Out of Hand, or zapped back to the future in the case of Star Magic, which currently sports a static-filled video monitor.

Or, if you want a real blast from the past, you can squint in the window of Twin Peaks Properties, Harry Aleo's realty office nearby. He's got that 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers championship photo in the window, and all those yellowed Reagan and Bush newspaper clippings. And, yes, the place is still offering a "free" bumpersticker advising us not to buy cars from Japan. Sorry, Harry, we already have.

and now for the RUMORS behind the news BY MAZOOK

And there have been other ch-ch-changes as well.

☎ ☎ ☎

RAPID DEVELOPMENTS: Some Fotomat customers who dropped off their film at the chain's 24th Street store for processing in July may have been surprised to return in August and see the word "Ritz" masking the old Fotomat logo.

Well, according to former Fotomat and now Ritz store manager Barbara Smith, the Ritz Camera chain (over 700 stores nationwide) bought up Fotomat's 24 stores in California Aug. 2. "Not to worry," says Smith. "Everyone with the Fotomat 'preferred' customer cards can freely exchange them for Ritz cards and continue to get double prints or a replacement roll of film, or now a 10 percent discount."

In other commercial drift, Prado Gallery has moved out of the Noe Valley Mall and into the basement below Designers' Club Too at the corner of 24th and Sanchez. And Prado owner Hector Sabates couldn't be happier: "This is a much bigger and better space for me to do framing work in, and I am going to expand my selection of cards and original works of art."

Over on 24th above Castro, Mail Boxes Etc. has expanded its operation next-door, into the adjoining storefront that was vacated by Underwater Pets this summer. For those of you who prefer to get your mail at midnight, store owners John Lee and Ken Tom point out that the shop's original space will be devoted entirely to private mailboxes (around 300), which can be accessed 24 hours a day. Small boxes, by the way, run about 90 bucks a year.

The Meat Market Coffeehouse, a landmark on 24th Street since 1971, is now

under new ownership. Dia Elkhuri and Manhal Jweinat have bought the place, and say they plan to increase the cafe's hours (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.), expand the breakfast menu to include eggs and omelettes, and reduce the price on some existing food items.

Both Dia and Manhal live in Glen Park, and Manhal also owns and operates the Higher Grounds Coffee House on Chenery near Diamond.

Another coffeehouse will be opening soon, in the spot last occupied (over three years ago) by Taste of Honey, at 24th and Diamond. The eatery, to be called, appropriately enough, the Diamond Corner Cafe, is a new venture for Karin Hoehne, who says she plans to get the place open by mid-October.

In an unrelated item, the Taste of Honey sign has finally been removed from the 1515 Church St. storefront, where it had hung for a couple of years after the sweet shop left 24th and Diamond.

In its place will be a gift and flower shop called Lily of the Valley, the newest enterprise of Dianne Clohessy. Dianne is the Dianne in Mia and Dianne's Flowers & Gifts, the popular flower emporium that bloomed, until recently, across the street at 1478 Church.

The other half of the former partnership, Mia Hatakeyama, says she also plans to open another flower stand "in the neighborhood, hopefully on Church Street." Mia started selling flowers on the sidewalk at 27th and Church (where Eric's is now) in March of '91, and then went into business with Dianne in November. The two decided to go their separate ways this summer, however. "because our management styles were so different," Mia says.

Steve Carrozzi, who used to chef at

Noe's Grill at 24th and Church, wants his friends in Noe Valley to know he recently opened a similar place at 4704 Mission St. (near Ocean) called Carrozzi's Sauté City. Check it out.

☎ ☎ ☎

BLUES ON 24TH: The Courtyard Cafe, in front of the Noe Valley Mall at 24th and Sanchez, has lost this year's bid for a cabaret license.

At a Sept. 17 hearing of the Planning Commission, about 30 Courtyard supporters tried to convince the city that music, poetry readings, improvisational comedy, and non-amplified acoustic music would be a welcome addition to the commercial strip, but they were countered by 15 neighbors, who came armed with a protest petition signed by many more.

The commission voted 4 to 2 to deny the Courtyard's application. (It was 6 to 2 last time, so the Courtyard's chances seem to be improving year by year.)

John Stalp, chair of Friends of Noe Valley's planning committee, reports that he's been going bonkers over the city's ineptness when it comes to installing trash cans on 24th Street.

Last spring the Friends won a \$2,640 Neighborhood Beautification grant, to be used for 10 new heavy-duty trash receptacles in Downtown Noe Valley. To order the containers, they sent a list of their proposed locations and a \$2,000 down-payment to the Department of Public Works, which was supposed to deliver and install them.

In June, the group learned that DPW had "lost" the request, so Friends stopped payment on the check, prepared a new request, location list, and check, and mailed it off.

Three months later, still no cans in sight—so Stalp got on the phone. Well, it seems that through some sort of administrative bungling, DPW had neglected to order the cans and had decided to put the money to another use. "What!?"

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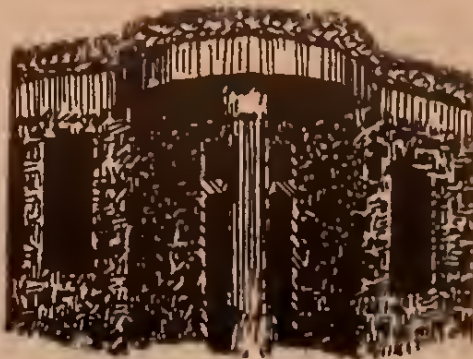


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RUMORS

said Stalp, who immediately went down to the bank to stop payment on the second check.

Though much bothered and beleaguered, Stalp says he and his Friends will try yet a third time to get what they paid for. And maybe a few extra cans, for all the red tape.



TOP OF THE POPS: The best-selling fiction at Cover to Cover bookstore these days is Susan Sontag's *Volcano Lover*. On the non-fiction side, it's *Women Who Run with the Wolves*, by Clarissa Pinkola Estes.

According to Roger Weiss at Streetlight Records, your current musical preferences are *Dirty Rock 'n' Roll*, a CD by Sonic Youth; a new album of pop ballads and torch songs by Annie Lennox; and Ottmar Liebert's *Luna Negra*, catering to the New Age crowd.

Over at Aquarius Records, the top seller, says store employee Windy C, is a CD called *Brand New Heavies*, consisting of 10 different rappers backed by a British band. Also big is the S.F. group Star Pimp, who've put out a hot single called "Treasure Trail."

The top movie rental around the Valley last month was *Fried Green Tomatoes*, at both West Coast Video on Church and 24th, and Video Wave on Castro. For the younger set, the current rage is *Fern Gully—the Last Rain Forest*, an animated film with an environmental theme.

But for something off the beaten track, Video Wave owner Alexander Gardener suggests *Strangers in Good Company*, a movie from the Canadian Film Board. "It's just wonderful," he says.

Video Wave is also renting, for free, *Time Out*, the new AIDS awareness video produced by Arsenio Hall and Magic Johnson. Says Gardener, "We are giving McAteer High School a free copy for



On Your Way to the Forums: Karen Pierce, president of the Bayview-Hunters Point Democratic Club, wore the group's message on her sleeve at a citywide candidates forum held Sept. 12 at James Lick Middle School. This month James Lick will host another pre-election gathering, one spotlighting candidates for school board and tackling the BEST agenda (Bringing Education and Services Together So All Children Can Excel). The all-day forum will take place Oct. 10, and will feature an appearance by State Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. Call 431-7430 for details. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

their use, and also making the tape available for viewing to any class at James Lick Middle School upon request."



ZIPPY FOR PRESIDENT posters do not appear to be going up in Noe Valley windows this election year, perhaps due to the fact that residents finally have a choice and are plastering the neighborhood with Clinton-Gore signs.

According to Clinton volunteers Robin Bach, of Elizabeth Street, and Sylvia and Tom Saunders, who live on 21st Street, Noe Valleons have been flocking to the table they've set up on 24th Street every Saturday since August. "A lot of people have been registering to vote over the past two months," says Tom, "many who have recently moved into the neighborhood and others who are first-time voters just turning 18."

And contributions have been pretty good, too. "We have been averaging almost \$500 a Saturday, and registering nearly 50 people each afternoon we're out here."

The deadline to register to vote, by the way, is Oct. 6 (call 554-4375).

And while Zippy may not make it to the White House, Zippy campaign manager and artistic creator Bill Griffith says the Zipster may get his own half-hour TV series next year.

According to Bill, Randy Quaid has been lined up to star in this live-action-with-animation exploration of the world as seen through the Pinhead's pinhead. "It's going to be kinda like MTV's Sunday night 'Liquid Television' program."

At the end of October, Griffith will be flying back to Boston to be inducted into Harvard University's Lampoon Society.




HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU until we meet again. And it is my sincere hope that that will be on the occasion of the Neighborhood Party, Oct. 11, 11:30 to 5:30, at Upper Noe Rec Center, Sanchez and Day. Get ready to boogie on down, because the show should be hot, there are crafts to be got, and the food... a lot.

GET THE VOTE

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November 3, 1992 is the Presidential Election. The Registrar of Voters needs poll workers with basic reading, writing, alphabetizing and math skills. The day begins at 6:30 a.m. and ends at approximately 9:30 p.m. Poll Workers get \$62 for the day. It is an opportunity to meet your neighbors and participate in the democratic process. For more information, contact Juanita Mitchell at 554-4385, or stop by Room 158 of City Hall.

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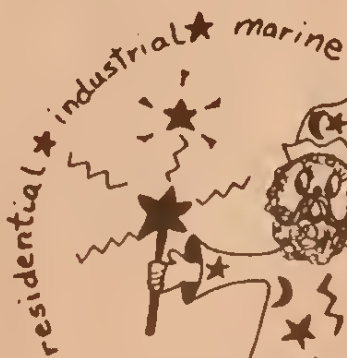
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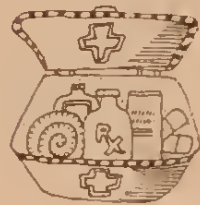
QUAKEBUSTERS

We've told you once, we've told you twice, now on the anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake (Oct. 17, 1989), we'll tell you once again: you better get ready. The Big One may be lurking. Here's what the California Office of Emergency Services says every San Francisco home needs.

A Fire Extinguisher
Your fire extinguisher should be suitable for all types of fires and should be easily accessible.



Blankets, Clothing
Extra blankets and clothing may be necessary to keep warm, and a sturdy pair of shoes is always a plus.

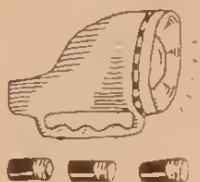
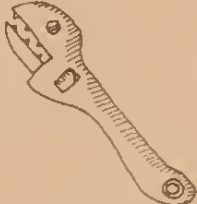


First-Aid Kit
The kit should be in a central location and should include a list of emergency instructions.



Radio and Batteries
Transistor radios will be useful for receiving emergency broadcasts and current disaster information.

Wrench
Have a crescent or pipe wrench on hand to turn off gas and water valves.



Flashlight
Keep flashlights (and extra batteries) in several locations in case of a power failure.

Dry or Canned Food, Money
Store a week's supply of food for each person. Also, stash some cash and some quarters for the pay phones.



Water, Disinfectant
Store several gallons of water for each person, plus a disinfectant like chlorine bleach to purify it.



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At 8 months, baby Alex is already upstaging his theatrical parents Chris and Jane Morreale.
PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Jane Underwood

Alexander Jerome Morreale

The moment of Alexander Jerome Morreale's birth—Jan. 7, 1992, at 6:08 p.m.—“was the most amazing thing I ever saw,” says his dad, Chris Morreale.

Little Alex, who weighed 5 pounds, 4 ounces, came a month early, maybe because he was so eager to get the show on the road, says his mom, Jane Morreale. “He’s a very happy kid,” she explains. “This may sound biased, but everyone we meet says, ‘Oh, he smiles so much, he’s so carefree.’ He’s a flirt, basically.”

Alex also has “no fear of strangers or dogs,” she adds, which is good, given that Sherman, the Morreales’ Doherman, weighs 105 pounds. “Alex can just watch Sherman for hours,” says Chris. “In fact, he gets upset if Sherman leaves the room, like, how dare you go out of my line of vision?”

“He really loves his Johnny Jumper in the doorway, too, but he wants Sherman to be nearby when he’s in it, so he can reach out and pull at his face. It’s really a sight to see. Everybody gets a kick out of it.”

“Little babies, they’re so cute,” says Jane, who has 12 nieces and nephews, and comes from a family of seven kids. “He’s got some hair now, and a big fat belly and sort of a dimple in his cheek, but no teeth yet.”

“I’m amazed at what Jane knows about raising babies,” says Chris, who was

brought up in Brooklyn, N.Y. “She went into this whole thing extremely prepared, maybe because she grew up on a farm, in a little Iowa town of 300, and has been raising babies all her life!”

“Having a dog is good preparation, too,” Jane laughs. “You can’t just pick up and go away for the weekend when you have animals!”

“Friends said, ‘Look out, your life is going to be over,’” Chris remembers. “But it’s really not that horrible. Just having him around and looking at him is enough to make up for the hard parts.”

And, he adds, “There are always baby-sitters. We go out once a week.”

The Morreales especially like to check out the theater scene, since they both work in the field. Chris, 31, is a technical director at the Berkeley Repertory Theater, and Jane, 30, is the assistant manager of the costume shop at the American Conservatory Theater. They first met when they were both working at a theater in Minneapolis.

“We went to an opening night party,” recalls Jane. “It was a sort of non-committal date, you know, an ‘I’ll-see-you-there-yeah-that’ll-be-great’ kind of date.”

But the hudding attraction turned into “a mutual thing,” says Chris. Four years later, in 1988, they got married.

In 1990 they moved to San Francisco and ended up on 28th Street in Noe Valley. There they set the stage for Alex, and the curtain has now gone up—to great applause. □

MORE MOUTHS TO FEED wants to show off *your* newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence or you just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don’t forget to include your address and phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait. □

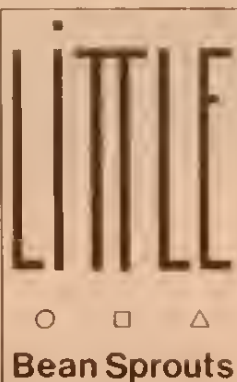
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MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Jane Underwood

Shayna Dorothy Rubin

On the evening of March 3, 1992, Sanchez Street residents Roger Rubin and Renée Koury both arrived home from work, heat.

Roger, 46, runs his own law practice (when he isn't writing his "Rumors" column for the *Voice*), and Renée, 36, is a reporter for the *San Jose Mercury News*.

On the night in question, they konked out on the couch together, and at around 1 a.m. Renée woke up and informed Roger that she was in labor, two weeks early.

"We had nothing packed yet," Roger recalls, "so I ran down to the basement in my underwear to get her suitcase, then ran back up and started racing around the house trying to find my pants. When I finally found them, my biggest problem was getting both feet in."

Renée wasn't exactly calm, either. She gave up on getting appropriately dressed, and threw on a raincoat. Says Roger, "We both ran like chickens out to the car. I put on my flashing blinkers, went through several red lights, and made it to U.C. Berkeley in, oh, six minutes."

"Then," remembers Renée, "we paced the halls for three hours, waiting while they did all the tests to see if I was in labor."

Well, she was indeed in labor, and just two hours after being admitted to the hospital—at 7:50 a.m. March 4, to be exact—she gave birth to 5-pound, 14-ounce Shayna Dorothy Rubin (aka Boodgie, Moodgie, Dzaadza, and Puhpuh).

Shayna was born with a luxurious head of dark brown hair, and huge brown eyes framed by thick lashes. "Everyone said her hair would fall out, but it never did," notes Renée. "And it has been a big challenge for Mommy, trying to keep it clean. They don't like you to wash their hair, but fuzz gets in it, and milk gets on that, and it looks like glue!"

Shayna, resplendent in a hot pink dress and color-coordinated leggings and socks, is sitting in Mommy's lap during the interview, chewing on a business card from Small Frys kids' clothing store.

"She eats anything," Renée points out,

"but she loves paper, especially newspapers. The challenge is to try to let her play with it without eating it."

"She's a bright and smiley baby," Roger chimes in. "And doesn't she look like an old soul? If you look deeply into her eyes..."

Clearly the doting dad, Roger relates how, for the first four months of Shayna's life, he and Renée found some creative ways to deal with colic. "We'd calm her down with dancing," he explains. "Bryan Ferry's 'Don't Stop the Dance' was her favorite."

The colic may have been related to Shayna's premature birth. "They said her nervous system was overstimulated," says Renée. "She was aware of too much, too young. Most babies just kind of hang out, but she was reaching for her toys at six weeks, and she knew who we were at two months and wouldn't let other people handle her."

But Shayna's early awareness has had its advantages, too. "She's already started drinking out of a glass," Renée says.

"And she held her own bottle at three months," notes Roger. "And she has just finished reading *War and Peace*."

Probably the biggest surprise about fatherhood, Roger observes, "is how close I feel to my baby. That, and how much you don't know about children until you have one of your own. It's like joining the club. Then you gain respect for all the parents you couldn't relate to before. And, of course, you can't do anything anymore!"

"But that doesn't bother me," Renée says. "You don't want to do the old things, anyway. I don't miss my old life like I thought I would."

The couple first met in 1978 at the Jewish Community Center, where they were both swimming laps. "He asked me what time it was on the clock on the wall," recalls Renée.

"And she said, 'There is no clock,'" admits Roger, who apparently can't see too well without his glasses. "There were just some wires sticking out of the wall where the clock was supposed to be."

Thus the two were mutually smitten, and went out for coffee together at the Cafe Trieste on their first date, then to the Grant Street Fair. Fourteen years later, they're happily arguing over how to change diapers—and planning to produce a sibling for Shayna sometime soon.

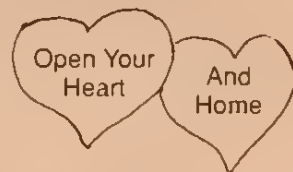
"I've never loved anybody like I love Shayna," says Renée. "I'd do anything for this little person."

"The baby just made us that much closer," adds Roger. "We thought we were as close as you could be," agrees Renée, "until she came." □



Voice columnist Roger Rubin and wife Renée Koury show off their little Mazookster, Shayna.
PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

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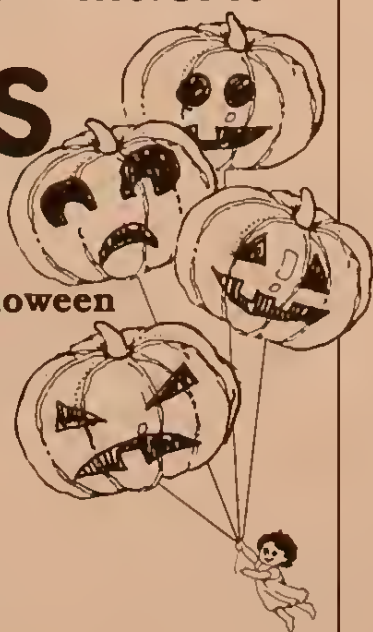
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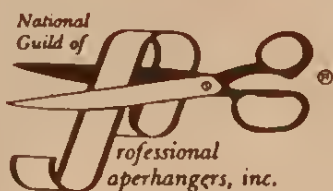
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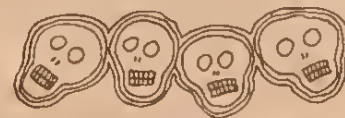
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Learn the symptoms of diabetes.

A message from the
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• MORE Books to Read •

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Adult Fiction

• *The Boy Without a Flag*, by Abraham Rodriguez Jr., contains seven heartbreaking stories about what it's like to be a teenager on the streets of the South Bronx.

• Cynthia Kadohata's novel *In the Heart of the Valley of Love* is set in the year 2052, and depicts a Japanese-American college student open to the possibilities of love in spite of the corruption surrounding her.

• In *Lizardskin*, Carsten Stroud's latest novel, a Montana state highway patrolman investigating an armed robbery becomes entangled in a conspiracy of corruption.

• *Lost in the City*, by Edward Jones, is a collection of short stories that portray African-American men and women struggling to make it in "inner-city" Washington, D.C.

Adult Non-Fiction

• Published by Reader's Digest, *America: Land of Beauty and Splendor* celebrates each of our 50 states with maps, charts, and photographic essays.

• *Citizen Koch*, a candid autobiography by the former mayor of New York City, is filled with reminiscences from Ed Koch's years in public life.

• *In Full Force*, by Louis Banner, explores society's changing attitudes toward older women.

• Gene Mustain's *Murder Machine* is an insider's account of organized crime that exposes the New York-based Roy De Meo gang and its Mafia connections.

• Based on interviews with 400 individuals, *Transformed by the Light*, by Melvin Morse, M.D., examines the medical and psychological effects that near-death experiences have on people's lives.

Children's Fiction

• In Paula Danziger's *Earth to Matthew*, Matthew Martin deals with sixth-grade ecology projects, parents who embarrass him, his rebellious older sister, and a classmate who spells her name "Jill" (ages 10 and up).

• Reading Jim Aylesworth's *Country Crossing*, you can experience the sights, sounds, and the quiet of a lovely summer night (ages 3-5)

• A 16-year-old Blackfoot Indian girl breaks with tradition when she teaches herself to ride a horse in *Dawn Rider*, by Jan Hudson (ages 10 and up).

• In *Wempires*, by Daniel Pinkwater, Jonathan wishes to become a vampire, but is visited at midnight by three very surprising non-vampires (ages 5 and up).

Children's Non-Fiction

• The many animals described in *Safe in the Spotlight*, by Elaine Scott, live at the Dawn Animal Agency, earning their keep by appearing in movies and TV shows (ages 6 and up).

• *A Young Painter*, by Zheng Zhensun and Alice Low, describes the life and remarkable painting ability of Wang Yani, a 16-year-old who began her art career when just a toddler (ages 6 and up).

• Wind tunnels, auto crash dummies, and simulated weightlessness can all be helpful to us—find out how in *Almost the Real Thing: Simulation in Your High-Tech World*, by Gloria Skurzynski (ages 8 and up)

• If you are curious about the food, clothing, and schools in Spain during the time of Columbus, read *If You Were There in 1492*, by Barbara Brenner (ages 8 and up)



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EXPERT GARDENING, landscaping, carpentry, tree work. Water-saving, irrigation, pruning, maintenance, repair, construction. Wood, stone, brick, concrete. Ecological pest control. \$20/man-hour. Gary, 821-4826.

NADA YOGA. Tuning the Inner Self. Murugu Booker and special guest will be giving concerts with sessions of kirtan (chanting) Friday, Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. \$5. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 821-1117.

DESPERATELY SEEKING SANITY? Experienced, compassionate psychotherapist, who works with men and women going through difficult life transitions, offers affordable depth psychotherapy in Noe Valley. Elizabeth Feldman, M.F.C.C. 749-7615. (Sliding scale and insurance accepted.)

SHARED HOUSING. Two calm, quiet, non-partying, non-smoking women over 35 seek same to share large Victorian flat with two cats. \$341 plus utilities, first and last month rent in advance. Annual four percent increase. Available approximately Sept. 22. 641-8812, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MAN WITH A VAN. Moving, hauling, trucking. \$30/hour, plus 30 cents a mile. Gary, 821-4826.

RENTALS OFFERED: 22 years serving San Francisco with pride. Our property leasing and management program offers dedicated customer service from qualified professionals. Call today to see how we can assist you. 252-6292.

EXPERIENCED COUPLES THERAPIST can help you re-find your partnership feelings, make your relationship a safer place, and bring the goodies back into your love. Structured and insight work give you tools to handle your own problems. Call Al Crowell, M.F.C.C., 755-4164. Noe Valley office.

ENGAGEMENT BROKEN. Must sacrifice two-third-karat diamond solitaire ring, 14 karat yellow gold. Appraised \$1,650 (have papers). Asking \$1,475. 648-5679.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, corner of 24th Street and Castro in Noe Valley. One room, about 170 square feet, trim and clean with new carpeting and paint. Old Victorian charm. Adjoining kitchen to share as kitchen and/or waiting room. Computer and two-line telephone hook-up in place. \$350 per month including utilities. Call 821-4744.

MACROBIOTIC COOKING CLASS. Learn how to prepare simple, delicious and fun macrobiotic dishes. Saturday, Oct. 3, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. \$25. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 821-1117.

SHARE LARGE, SUNNY six-room flat, deck, with teacher. Quiet non-smoker. \$624/month plus utilities. Cat okay. Call Juanita, 285-3386.

VEGETARIAN WORMS! That's right. Worms love to recycle your veggie scraps into rich soil. Save landfill space. Call Yahoo Compost Service. We'll provide a bunch of worms in a handsome box. 648-YAHO.

LICENSED AND BONDED CONTRACTOR. Let me fix your house problems, legally. Remodels, conversions, updates. Windows, doors, roofs and floors, plumbing, electrical. Home or income property. Sheerwalling and quake-proofing. Many local references and regular customers. Call Fred, 337-9324. License no. 546283.

BIG BOX OF BABY CLOTHES (no stains), diaper wraps, \$50; Evenflo soft baby carrier, clean, \$20; baby walker, clean, collapsible, \$20; Evenflo infant carseat with canopy, clean, \$50. 239-7369.

CLAS ADS

COUPLES THERAPY. Proven methods help you discover the love and joy in your relationships. Chronic conflict often stems from unresolved childhood issues. My methods focus on healing these wounds in the context of the current relationship. Safe, non-confrontive environment; sliding fee scale. Norman Hering, M.F.C.C. intern no. 19790; supervised by Al Crowell, M.F.C.C. 826-1128.

NEED PEOPLE WHO SEW to put my company labels into garments. Noe Valley location or your own home. Leslie, 206-0404.

HELP WITH TRANSITIONS: Discover new perspectives, identify choices, understand best use of energies, enjoy revitalization in relationships, creativity, right livelihood, spiritual path. Twenty years' experience. Rebecca Radner, psychic consultant. 563-8746.

DOUBLE BED: 50-year-old traditional style reproduction of four-poster bed. Excellent condition. Dark wood. Mattresses not included. \$250. Call anytime, 824-2624.

SHEEP DUNG ESTATES! Remote cottage on 160 acres in Anderson Valley. Dogs welcome. \$75/night. (707) 895-2774. Unit 5285.

RITA'S GARDENING SERVICE: 10 years of experience. References. Complete maintenance. \$11 per hour. Call 282-7360.

LOANS! Specializing in real estate purchases and refinances. Outstanding service and competitive rates are what satisfy our customers. Monterey Mortgage, 10 Monterey Blvd., S.F. 584-0970.

JAY'S CARPENTRY AND PAINTING. Stairs, decks, finish woodwork or framing. Interior or exterior painting. Small/big jobs. References. 665-9652.

MEDITATION WORKSHOP. This is a practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. This program is designed both to help beginners and those needing to re-inspire their practice. Thursday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 821-1117.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in several years, the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. (between 23rd and 24th) has day-use space available, including some weekend slots, suitable for ongoing or one-time acting or dance classes, rehearsals, meetings, etc. For information call Karen Heather at 282-2317.

STEREO REPAIR. Save time! Save money! Offering in-home stereo repair at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo, now serving the San Francisco community for 10 years. References. Guarantee. Gene's Sound Service, 553-3751.

SUBLET ONE-BEDROOM "townhouse" in Noe Valley. Quiet area, good parking. \$725. Four-month minimum. 550-0420.

HARMONICA LESSONS taught right here in your neighborhood by pro. Blues, pop, country. Beginners through advanced. Sliding scale. 648-7858.

FLAT FOR RENT \$850. 26th and Fair Oaks. Large, light, two bedrooms, multiple closets. Garage. Water/garbage included. Close to Muni/BART. No pets. Shown by appointment. (209) 722-8617.

LIVING TAI CHI CHUAN. Simplified, practical essentials for meditative and health benefits. Beginners, working people come join us. Monday through Thursday. Noe Valley Ministry. 6-7:30 p.m. \$5 introduction. Chris Sequeira, 756-6857.

BIRD GOWN NEEDED. Looking for someone who can make durable cloth bird gown as part of bird costume. Can pay about \$100. Call Jim, 641-0162.

PLATFORM BED, OAK DOUBLE with six built-in under-bed drawers. Excellent condition. \$350/best offer. 282-8030.

FOR RENT: Noe Valley Victorian home, three bedrooms, one bath, semi-modern kitchen and bath, newly polished hardwood floors, garage, large yard. \$2,000. 824-6330; evenings, 647-0695.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, 408 30th St. at Sanchez. Neighborhood garage sale. Toys, children's clothes, household goods, and much much more. 9 a.m.

VIDEO SERVICE: Video production, inventory (home/office), weddings, parties, training, talents, documentaries, insurance claims, graduations, any type. Mose, 337-9003.

GUITAR WANTED. Martin, Fender, Gibson. Cash paid. 648-7858.

COUNSELING/TOOLS FOR CHANGE. I provide a safe, nurturing environment to help you clarify times of transition, heal old wounds, release hindering patterns, and create positive changes in your life. Esther Goldman, M.A. 431-1066. Reasonable rates.

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WANTED: GARAGE TO RENT. Professional woman seeks garage, vicinity Church, Army, Dolores streets. Sub-compact car. Call 824-9745.

SPIRITUAL COMPANY, a new non-sectarian meditation and discussion group is meeting in the neighborhood. First and third Sundays of each month at 10:30 a.m. For more information call Marc at 647-9609. Free.

CARPENTERS/HANDYMEN. Remodeling and repair. Doors, drywall, decks. Windows, woodwork, whatever. Reasonable rates, references. Free estimates. Call Dan, 648-4326.

WANTED: A GARAGE TO RENT. I need a place to store my motorcycle and some furniture for one year beginning sometime in October. Call 647-7912.

CARE FOR CAREGIVERS. A special workshop by Sri Swami Prakashananda Ma focusing on relation, breathing practices, meditation and imagery that will help you get the nurturing you need. Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. \$5. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 821-1117.

BED AND BREAKFAST with private entrance, garden. Reasonable rates, monthly available. 282-8983.

TUPPERWARE. Exciting new catalog and great hostess gift specials. Excellent income opportunity. Call for free catalog and information. Louise, 641-7032, or leave message, 588-8393.

PC SOFTWARE FOR SALE. Major vendors. Current versions. David, 647-6155.

WHY EAT OUT? Treat yourself to the convenience of gourmet vegetarian dining in your own home. I will deliver exciting and diverse meals to your doorstep. My cuisine is naturally low in fat, cholesterol, and salt. Call now for your October menu. Gift certificates available. Jane, 826-2133.

FORMAL CHAIRS: Two gold velvet chairs with bottom wood trim; excellent condition; \$600 for pair. 239-5325.

FEELING STUCK? Psychotherapy and counseling for change and empowerment. Life transitions, relationship problems, anxiety and depression can be worked through with caring assistance. My specialty areas include: recovery from sexual abuse, alcohol and drug problems, and sexual orientation issues. Carol Gipson, licensed M.F.C.C. no. 28429. Noe Valley office, (510) 428-9161.

IT'S YOUR MOVE. But I can help. Professional organizer will handle any and all of your moving needs. Offices/stores/homes/apartments. Free consultation. Call Deborah, 621-3425.

HOUSECLEANING, 267-4880. Looking for excellence? Always high quality, consistent, systematic work. 15 years' excellent local references. Superior house cleaner seeking new clients. Weekly, bi-weekly, or spring cleaning available. Deana.

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DESPERATELY SEEKING GARAGE, vicinity of Sanchez and Elizabeth, 282-6751.

DEEP RELAXATION WORKSHOP. Learn how to use deep relaxation in creative ways to release physical and mental tension and reduce stress. Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. \$5. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 821-1117.

COME TO ALASKA. Trade periodic use of your spare room (couch?) in San Francisco for use of mine in Anchorage. Approximately six weeks per year total time. Will consider alternate trades (airfare? \$? services?). 267-1830.

SHARE DAYCARE. We have a wonderful full-time babysitter available in your home and ours. Prefer infant and walking distance to Jersey and Castro. Call Kris at 648-0106.

HOUSESITTER/PETSITTER. Wonderful 38-year-old woman loves animals and plants. Seeking house-sitting position, weekend to ? Professional house-cleaner. Spring cleanings also available while you're gone. Please leave message. Deana, 267-4880.

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DAYTIME WOMEN'S GROUP forming. Contact Jeanne Adleman, M.A., 585-0666. See above for description.

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HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS. Is your relationship in trouble? Are you in a good relationship that has occasional difficulties that you would like to get through more quickly or less painfully? Relationship counseling with a problem-solving focus available in Noe Valley for individuals or couples. Insurance accepted. Valerie Hearn, Ph.D. 824-3701.

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GUITAR LESSONS: Professional player and teacher, over 25 years' experience, close to Noe Valley. Tom Schwabenlander, 861-4721.

GARY FRANKS IS NOW AT Angelo's Hair Salon. Electrolysis and Swedish massage. 600 Ellis St. Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Full hair service salon. Ask for Gary or Angelo, 673-7628. Special \$15 hair cut. Perm \$50. Color \$35. Sunday only by appointment, Angelo is at 3931 18th St. behind Marcel Hair Salon, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 673-7628. Marcel's shop is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 863-5187. \$2 off any haircut with this ad. Expires 10/31/92. Void Saturdays.

HOUSECLEANING. Heavenly Maids, vacancy cleaning specialists! 239-0561.

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CLAS ADS

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MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS? Professional organizer comes to the rescue. I can structure your office, clear your desk, systemize your files, maintain your finances. Get back to the work you love, let me do the rest. Free consultation. Call Deborah, 621-3425.

STOREFRONT FOR RENT, Potrero Hill, corner 20th and Connecticut, good neighborhood, 24-foot glass front, high ceilings, almost 500 square feet. Remodeled, great for designers, architects, or small retail store. Good parking. 285-3449.

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CARPENTRY AND PAINTING. Interior/exterior, minimum on small jobs. Local references. Sandy, 585-6542.

WINDOW REPAIRS: Replace broken glass, ropes and putty. Small carpentry and household repair jobs. Free estimates. I am always on time. City Window Service. 337-9327.

PET TENDERS. Reliable love and care for your pets, plants, and home while you're away. References on request. Bonded. Scott, 550-8306.

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NEW IMPROVED NOE'S NEST bed and breakfast. Unit A, private entrance, private bath, kitchenette, queen bed. Cute and cozy. Unit B, view, private bath, deck, fireplace, hot tub, queen bed. Unit C, ultra-view, private bath, steam room, parlor, king bed, fireplace and deck. All with cable and VCR. Masseuse and daycare available. Contact Sheila, 821-0751.

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POETRY WANTED. The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of poetry related to neighborhood themes, people, or places. Payment upon publication. Send submissions with SASE (and a phone number, please) to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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DAYCARE. Fresh air, games, exercise, learning, fun and love. Openings for toddlers ages 1 to 3 in Noe Valley. Call Hanni at 282-7777.

How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the Noe Valley Voice is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢ (we trust you), enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue.

It also would be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue and, if so, include a copy of the published ad with your renewal.

Recession Discount: The Voice comes out 10 times a year (we don't publish in January and August). If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. Just deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

To get in the November issue, please mail your ad and check—made payable to the Noe Valley Voice—so that we receive it by Oct. 15, 1992. Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone or drop-in orders. □

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CALENDAR

OCTOBER 1992

OCT. 1: The Noe Valley Ministry invites the neighborhood to a DISCUSSION of "The Feminine Face of God," led by Sherry Ruth and Patricia Hopkins. 7:30-9:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 285-7438.

OCT. 1: Good Vibrations celebrates Banned Books Week with a BOOK PARTY and readings from *The Erotic Impulse: Honoring the Sexual Self*. 8-10 pm. 1210 Valencia St. 550-7399.

OCT. 1-20: Marta Ayala exhibits her PAINTINGS in "A Jungle in the Barrio." Hairy Bizness Gallery, 867 Valencia St. 826-1291.

OCT. 1-17: Dancers' Group/Footwork kicks off its EDGE FESTIVAL with "If We Only Knew," by the troupe Eth-Noh-Tec. Thurs.-Sat., 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

OCT. 3: VOCALIST/STORYTELLER Rhiannon teams up with Gwen Jones on ancient instruments and pianist Frank Martin to perform "Sound Waves." 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

OCT. 3: The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association sponsors an all-day FALL SIDEWALK SALE, offering bargains throughout downtown Noe Valley. For information, call Carol Yenne at Small Frys, 648-3954.

OCT. 3 & 10: Laughter of the Heart Players Lee Glickstein, David Roche, and Sandra O'Neal show off "The COMEDY of Spirit." 8 pm. Holy Innocents Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. 731-6640.

OCT. 4: The Golden Gate Boys Choir sings a medley from *Fiddler on the Roof*, and gives a CONCERT of sacred and secular music by Haydn, Copeland, Debussy, and Rimsky-Korsakov. 3 pm. Mission Presbyterian Church, 3261 23rd St. 647-8295.

OCT. 4-NOV. 5: "Family Values" is the theme of the Autumn Annual ART SHDW at Gallery Sanchez. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 pm, reception Oct. 4, 2-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

OCT. 6: This is the deadline to register to VOTE in the Nov. 3 general election. Call the Registrar, 554-4375.

OCT. 6, 13 & 20: Children 3-5 are invited to preschool STORY TIME at 10 am. Noe Valley Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.



Vocalist Rhiannon will be making "Sound Waves" in concert with Gwen Jones and Frank Martin at the Noe Valley Music Series on Saturday, Oct. 3.

OCT. 7: Rozelle's Construction offers a free HOME REMODELING seminar, covering how to choose a contractor and avoid remodeling nightmares. 6:30-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

OCT. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Parents can bring their infants and toddlers to the weekly LAPSITS at the branch library. (Halloween costumes are encouraged on Oct. 28.) 7 pm. Noe Valley Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

OCT. 8: Ex-private investigator Elizabeth Pincus reads from *Two-Bit Tango*, hard-edge DETECTIVE FICTION with a feminist slant. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

OCT. 8-NOV. 1: Humorist CHARLIE VARDN performs "Honest Prophets" Thursday through Saturday, and gives "An Ounce of Prevention" on Sundays beginning Oct. 11. 8 pm. The Marsh, 968 Valencia St. 641-0235.

OCT. 10: The Noe Valley Ministry holds its annual FLEA MARKET and bake sale. 9:30 am-4 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 239-8129.

OCT. 10: CASINO NIGHT, a fundraiser sponsored by the AIDS Support Group at Most Holy Redeemer Church, benefits all persons with HIV disease. 7 pm. 4321 18th St. 863-1581.

OCT. 10: The ROVA Saxophone Quartet premieres two pieces, Fred Ho's "Beyond Columbus and Capitalism," and Tim Berne's "Invisible Man." 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

OCT. 11: Three residents' groups sponsor the second annual Noe Valley NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY, featuring food, rattles, the "Moonwalk," a look inside a police car, and rock, blues, jazz, and Scottish music. 11:30 am-5:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 641-5989.

OCT. 11: O. Henry Award-winner Sylvia Watanabe reads from her collection of SHIRT STORIES, *Talking to the Dead*, set on Hawaii's Lahaina coast. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

OCT. 15: Dog-eared Books launches its "In a Dog's Ear" POETRY/MUSIC series with Irish bard Eddie Stack, Argentinian surrealist Carlos Suarez, and liddle player John Caulfield. 8 pm. 1175 Valencia St. 282-1901.

OCT. 17: Guitarist Eddie Duran and tenor saxophonist Madeline Duran perform a blend of SOUL AND SWING at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

OCT. 18: The neighborhood is invited to a DEDICATION CEREMONY and nameplate installation honoring Sally Brunn at the newly-renamed branch library. 2 pm. Noe Valley Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

OCT. 18: The choir of the First Presbyterian Church in Burlingame performs a CONCERT of English and Spanish hymn-anthems and American spirituals. 3 pm. Mission Presbyterian Church, 3261 23rd St. 647-8295.

OCT. 18: The Mission Cultural Center presents "Notes from the Hood," a JAZZ and poetry jam. 5 pm. 2868 Mission St. 821-1155.

OCT. 19: "From Love and Relationship Addiction to Intimacy" is a free eight-week CLASS offered by the S.F. Community College Castro-Valencia Center. 6:30 pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. 585-5212.

OCT. 20: CARTOON ARTIST Allison Bechdel, author of *Dykes to Watch Out For*, gives a slide show/discussion of her work. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

OCT. 22: Linda Ojeda discusses her updated handbook "MENDPAUSE Without Medicine." 8 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

OCT. 22-31: Ellie Herman choreographs and performs "Winter," an eclectic DANCE journey of a woman through life. Thurs.-Sat., 8:30 pm. Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

OCT. 23-NOV. 8: El Teatro de la Esperanza presents the world premiere of Roy Conboy's suspenseful DRAMA, *Dancing with the Missing*. Thurs.-Sun., 8:30 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 255-2320.

OCT. 24: Donna Ambrogi discusses "PATIENT RIGHTS and Health Care Decisions" at the monthly meeting of the Older Women's League. 10 am. 601 Olores St. 626-6938.

OCT. 24: The Latino/a HIV/AIDS Health Fair will be held from noon to 5 pm in Olores Park, Dolores & 18th. Call 476-3598, 621-1361, or 648-3702.

OCT. 24: Stuff and sew your own personal garden protector in a SCARE-CROW-MAKING class led by Kemit. 1 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

OCT. 24: Psychic Horizons holds its monthly PSYCHIC HEALING FAIR. 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 346-7906.

OCT. 24: The Andean fusion band JIWASA links up with guitarist Alex de Grassi. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

OCT. 24 & 25: A JAZZ FILM FESTIVAL at the Castro Theater features six San Francisco premieres, including Buster Keaton's silent feature *The Cameraman*. 429 Castro St. 864-5449 for times.

OCT. 25: Noe Valley Sunday Afternoons sponsors a CONCERT of Renaissance and medieval music by the Festival Consort. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.



Comedian Charlie Varon preaches anthro-evangelism in his one-man show "Honest Prophets," running Oct. 8-31 at the Marsh. PHOTO BY BRUCE COOK.

OCT. 25: Soprano Elender Wall and pianist Alma Batista celebrate Halloween with SPOOKY MUSIC from Bach to John Duke. Costumes are encouraged. 8 pm. S.F. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

OCT. 26: A best costume contest and a prize raffle are featured at the Diamond Senior Center's HALLOWEEN DANCE. Noon. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

OCT. 27: Preschoolers can watch the movie shorts *Chicken Soup with Rice*, *The Happy Lion*, and *Mole and the Rocket* at 10 and 11 am. And at 4 pm, the children's librarian will read SCARY STORIES to kids 6 and older. Noe Valley Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.



Eth-Noh-Tec's Nancy Wang and Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo play two reincarnated souls in the dance piece "If We Only Knew," showcased Oct. 1-17 at Footwork on 22nd Street. PHOTO BY BOB HSIANG.

OCT. 28: Noe Valley residents who live south of Army Street are invited to a TREE-PLANTING planning meeting conducted by Friends of the Urban Forest. 7 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 824-1062.

OCT. 29: Neighborhood kids are asked to bring in their decorated or carved PUMPKINS for display in Small Frys' window on 24th Street. The best pumpkins will be picked, and prizes awarded, on Halloween, 11 am. 4066 24th St. 648-3954.

OCT. 29: Images of homosexual life in the 1930s intersect with remembrances from the 1990s in Barbara Hammer's first feature FILM, *Nirate Kisses*. 7:30 pm. Castro Theater, 429 Castro St. 552-FILM.

OCT. 30: The flower and gift shop Lily of the Valley sponsors a PUMPKIN-CARVING contest for all ages. 4 pm. Visit 1515 Church St. for contest rules, or call 695-1456.

OCT. 30: Dr. Caligari Nosleratu himself welcomes the neighborhood to the eighth annual SCAREHOUSE at Upper Noe Rec Center (recommended for kids 7 and up). 6-9 pm. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011.

OCT. 31: The Ina Chalis Opera Company performs a high MYSTIC DRAMA, *The Medium*, and a humorous play, *The Telephone*, by Gian Carlo Menotti. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

OCT. 31: The "Haunted House Lady," Marilyn Lucas, invites you to her 12th annual Noe Valley HAUNTED HOUSE, also known as the Freddy Kruger Memorial Chapel. (The first 300 children receive bags of treats.) 5-8:30 pm. Look for Captain Hook on the 300 block of Hoffman Ave., between 24th and Elizabeth. 285-6265.

OCT. 31: Zack Thompson performs "The Ragman," a ONE-MAN SHOW of music, comedy, and dance. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.



The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The next issue of the *Voice* will appear Oct. 28, and will cover calendar events for the month of November. The deadline for items is Oct. 15, 1992.

ZIPPY

"THE ERSTWHILE LOVERS"

BILL GRIFFITH

